

**WEST HAM
TEAM GROUP**

WORLD CUP DRAW PREVIEW

SHOOT!

28p

23rd
JANUARY,
1982

**'Villa aren't
one season
wonders'—**

PETER WITHE

**FRANS
THIJSEN—
Cheering for
England**

Liverpool striker David
Johnson outjumps
Ipswich captain Mick
Mills.



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Great player lost

It remains a source of considerable sadness that outstanding League players of the quality of Charlie George, Alan Hudson, Peter Osgood and Stan Bowles failed to graduate from everyday domestic football to make regular appearances for England.

Kevin Beattie's name could be added also to that illustrious quartet with one significant difference.

The Ipswich Town powerhouse defender truly wanted to represent his country.

Kevin failed to fulfil his rich promise on the international stage because of a series of crippling knee injuries, which have finally forced him to retire prematurely at the age of 28.

He will suffer with an arthritic knee for the rest of his life and will no doubt reflect in his quieter moments in retirement on the might-have-beens.

Kevin seemed certainly to break Bobby Moore's record of 108 England caps when he made

SHOOT view!

his first appearance for his beloved country against Cyprus at Wembley in April, 1975.

Kevin played centre-half alongside Colin Todd that night and many observers predicted their partnership would flourish for many years.

The hopes never materialised as Todd lost his way at international level and Beattie won only nine caps, cruelly handicapped for so much of his career.

Ipswich Town's manager Bobby Robson says he and George Best were the best British players to emerge since the War.

Kevin was a colossus in every aspect of his play. He became one of the best headers in the game, the power of his tackles were awesome, and his strength on the ball contributed heavily to Ipswich's rise to the top.

He reminded most people of Duncan Edwards, the former Manchester United and England giant who died at Munich.

No greater tribute could be accorded Kevin Beattie, who will be sadly missed from a scene he graced with immense distinction.

January 16th...
**WORLD CUP
DRAW IN MADRID**

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND IN BILBAO?

AT six o'clock on Saturday, there'll be 500 journalists and more than 1,000 managers, directors and officials packed into the Palacio de Congresos in Madrid for the World Cup draw.

And if the ceremony goes without a hitch there'll be a sigh of relief from the Organising Committee, who finally managed to 'kick out' the European Security Conference in mid-December and who've been working right through the festive season to get the show on the road.

The funny thing is that the draw itself could take less than ten minutes, whereas the speeches will take a good deal longer.

So the dish served to millions of fans all over the world is likely to consist of loads of gravy and very little meat.

What's more, FIFA have done

most of the cooking behind the scenes, and the menu for the biggest-ever World Cup Finals already has most of the dishes pencilled in.

As you know, the six seeded teams have already been decided, and England's inclusion, despite all the polite comments by the Spaniards, is purely for security reasons (see World Wide, page 12) as it means England will play all their first-phase matches in Bilbao and avoid the need to police trains, buses and planes.

So, with the top name already on the panel for each group, the other three teams remain to be decided on the 16th. Contrary to newspaper reports, the groups have not been decided, and there's only a one in six chance that England will meet Poland in their



opening match.

What FIFA and the Spaniards have done is to split the 18 non-seeded teams into three groups of six.

They didn't want more than one 'minnow' in each group (like Tunisia and Mexico in 1978). And they didn't want more than one

The Paul Mariner goal against Hungary which ensured England a place in the World Cup Finals and gave a headache to the Spanish authorities who must cope with their many travelling fans.



GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
Venues: Vigo La Coruna 2nd Phase: Barcelona	Venues: Gijon Oviedo 2nd Phase: Madrid	Venues: Alicante Elche 2nd Phase: Barcelona
COUNTRY	COUNTRY	COUNTRY
Italy	West Germany	Argentina
.....
.....
.....



Gerry Armstrong goes close against Israel at Windsor Park. But the Watford striker was on target that night to ensure a big pay out for the Northern Irish Football Association.

Iron Curtain country per group, as few of their fans will travel and a USSR-Czechoslovakia game could be economically disastrous in terms of gate receipts. All this means that the composition of each group will be

decided by drawing one team from each of the three 'hats'.

The second team in each group will come from an Iron Curtain hat containing Hungary, Poland, USSR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and, to make up the six, Austria.

The third team will come from a hat containing Scotland, Northern Ireland, France, Belgium, Chile and Peru.

Minnows

And the final team will come from the minnows' hat containing Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait, China or New Zealand, El Salvador and Honduras.

Which means that either Scots or the Irish could be in the same group as England, although they cannot meet each other.

It'll also be impossible for Scotland to be in the same group as their 1978 executioners Peru!

And if you're watching the draw, keep an eye on the numbers allotted to Scotland and Northern



Joe Jordan will be relieved to hear the Scots can't face the Peruvians in this year's World Cup competition.

POTS OF PESETAS FOR SPAIN ...and a million each for the three U.K. teams?

If any country was well-equipped to stage the new super 24-team World Cup Finals, it was Spain — Europe's tourist paradise.

The Spaniards haven't had to build any new hotels; the number of new roads is minimal; airport modernisation has involved just a handful of terminal buildings; on the railways the modernisation programme has simply been accelerated.

The only major expense has been the massive £60,000,000 outlay needed to bring Spanish TV up to scratch in a country where standards are low and where much of the population has until now been unable to pick up the second channel.

At the stadia themselves the total bill for modernisation work is just over £40,000,000 — not bad considering that 17 grounds are to be used.

What's more, the Mundial '82 Committee is paying nearly a third of the cost, leaving the clubs to find just £27,555,000 between them to bring their facilities up to world standards.

To raise the cash, the World Cup Committee's supremo, Raimundo Saporta, persuaded the government to put half a peseta supplement on every line of the state-run football pool — and the move was such a success that the £12,600,000 target was passed with a year to spare, even without

counting the profits from special editions of the state lottery and special issues of stamps and coins.

By the time the World Cup kicks off, the government should have netted a clear £15,000,000 over and above their target, so a fair amount of that TV modernisation will be done free of charge.

The 200,000 foreign fans expected to make the trip for the Finals mean around £110,000,000 for Spanish hoteliers.

And even the most conservative estimates reckon that the fans will spend £60,000,000 in the street, especially in bars, restaurants and taxis.

Profit

On the purely footballing front, the balance sheet which the Spaniards will present to FIFA on November 11th is also expected to show an all-time record profit.

TV rights have already brought in over £11,000,000. Advertisements in the 17 grounds will net £10,450,000. The merchandising of World Cup souvenirs will bring in £7,000,000 in royalties. And ticket sales are expected to top £33,000,000.

So on the credit side of the balance sheet there should be a grand total of around £62,000,000.

On the debit side, FIFA cream off

a couple of percentages, and the 17 Spanish clubs will share about £5,000,000 for the rent of their facilities.

Travel, hotel and living expenses for the 24 teams will cost a packet.

So will the expenses of FIFA committee members, who ran up a massive bill of some £750,000 in just three weeks in Argentina in 1978!

Then there are the costs of dope-testing and insurance, plus the referees' expenses.

Even so, the debit side of the accounts shouldn't exceed £15,000,000 (two-and-a-half times the figure registered in Argentina) and the profit column should show something in the region of £47,000,000.

FIFA will take their ten per cent. And host nation Spain will take £11%am, leaving around £30 million to be distributed among the 24 nations competing, at an average of £1%am apiece.

The exact figure depends on the number of games each country plays, and a team eliminated in the First Round should pick up around £825,000, all expenses paid.

Nations knocked out in the Second Round can expect to net £1,375,000. And the last four will be able to tip around £1,750,000 into the national coffers.

Ireland.

England's number 13 means that they play their second phase matches in Madrid if they qualify, and if they win their group they'll probably come up against West Germany.

If they finish second in their group, the odds are they'll have to overcome hosts Spain in the Second Round.

No Chance

If the Scots or the Irish are drawn with numbers 7, 15 or 19 they would also head for Madrid in the second phase, while if they're given numbers 3, 11 or 23 they would have no chance of crossing paths with England until the Semi-Finals, and would play second phase matches in Barcelona.

By the way, in the rehearsal for the draw, England were grouped with France, Austria and El Salvador.

The Scots were down South in the Seville-Malaga group along with Brazil, Yugoslavia and Kuwait.

And the Irish joined Argentina, USSR and Algeria in the Alicante-Elche group!

HOW THEY'RE SPLIT

Italy West Germany Argentina England Spain Brazil	Hungary Poland Czechs USSR Yugo Austria
Scotland N. Ireland France Belgium Chile Peru	Algeria Cameroon Kuwait China or N.Z. El Salvador Honduras

GROUP 4

Venues: Bilbao
Valladolid

2nd Phase: Madrid

COUNTRY

England

GROUP 5

Venues: Valencia
Zaragoza

2nd Phase: Madrid

COUNTRY

Spain.....

GROUP 6

Venues: Sevilla
Malaga

2nd Phase: Barcelona

COUNTRY

Brazil

IF Manchester United decide to sell Kevin Moran, the tough defender will not sign for a Second Division club.

If the worst should happen he would sample the European or American scene.

Kevin does not see himself returning to his accountancy career. Instead he hopes to continue as a professional footballer for the next decade.

LINFIELD goalkeeper George Dunlop has totalled more than 150 consecutive first team appearances for the Belfast Blues in the past three seasons.

Tribute

THE death of legendary Linfield half-back Billy McCleary saddened many people in Irish soccer.

Blue-man Billy had the unique double-distinction of appearing in Ireland's biggest-ever victory, a 7-0 demolition of Wales, in 1930, and bossing the Irish League to an astonishing 5-2 defeat of the Football League in the mid-50's.

What's more, he also had the rare honour of representing Ireland in both football and cricket.

COLD BERMUDIAN

HIBS' new signing from Bermuda, Ricky Hill, arrived in Scotland just in time for one of the coldest spells of winter for some years.

Manager Bertie Auld revealed that the young coloured striker was finding it so cold that he has to wear three pairs of socks.

Although Hibs are one of the few with undersoil heating, they could run into trouble elsewhere with hard grounds. That's why the club has kitted the players out with astro turf boots.



Alex Sabella was one of many Leeds stars on the sidelines for the game at Stoke. He has since returned to Argentina.

Clarke's gamble pays-off

IT takes a brave man to leave £2 million worth of football talent sitting on the sidelines as his team struggles to escape relegation.

But that was the courageous decision of Leeds United's manager Allan Clarke when the Elland Road club visited Stoke.

The most notable omission from the side was Peter Barnes, the England winger, who cost a cool £930,000 when Clarke bought him from West Bromwich Albion.

Welsh midfielder international Brian Flynn, rated at £300,000, Argentinian Alex Sabella, bought from Sheffield United for £400,000 18 months ago, £200,000 striker Derek Parlane, and Brian Greenhoff, a £350,000 buy from Manchester United, all sat out the game.

Another star not selected for the game was Terry Connor, one of the most promising strikers in the country, who has not gained the manager's full approval.

Clarke's team selection was fully justified, for Leeds won 2-1 with goals from Arthur Graham and Gary Hamson.

Sexton's glory days

WELL-travelled boss Dave Sexton is backing his new team, Coventry, to take him along the glory trail.

Sexton insists: "This team has the potential to become as good as any of the other teams I have managed."

The man now in charge at Highfield Road has also been boss at Chelsea, Q.P.R., and Manchester United. His first aim is to get rid of the Jekyll and Hyde image that has haunted Coventry.

He said: "Coventry have always given the impression of being a good side at home but being capable of getting thumped away."

"I know we have been heavily beaten but we haven't been outplayed. These kids are holding their own and that is an achievement for them with an average age of 21."



Tough-guy image



MARTIN Jol, West Bromwich Albion's midfielder powerhouse, is earning a reputation for being one of the fiercest tacklers in the First Division.

But the Dutch import fears he is becoming a marked man by referees who took his name five times in ten games.

Jol's problem is that he has been given the specific role of shadowing the opposition's midfield general since signing from FC Twente for £200,000.

He did a superb job on West

FIT again Birmingham midfielder Alan Curbishley has a warning for the rest of the First Division.

He says: "Those first few games back in action were just like pre-season matches to get me back and sharp again. I had to have match practice."

Curbishley was out for eight months with a knee injury but now he says: "I am fit and ready to start the campaign in earnest. I have a lot of catching up to do."

Channon's new role

MIKE CHANNON is going backwards to further his career. The 33-year-old Southampton star is playing more as a midfield player than as a striker.

Channon has scored around 250 goals in his two spells at The Dell and later this season will play his 500th League game for them.

"I find myself playing deeper and deeper," he says. "I'll end up as an out-and-out midfield man soon."

"I still enjoy scoring, but I feel I can contribute more coming from behind, creating rather than being on the end of things."

"The team is doing well and that's all that matters. Maybe we're not quite consistent enough to win the Championship. There is still a feeling we could lose heavily, although I wouldn't write us off."

"My enthusiasm is as great as ever. Injuries take a little longer to go away, but I've many years left in me yet."

"Eventually I'd like to become a player-manager somewhere. At the moment, though, I'm only concerned about Southampton."

NEWS DESK

Compiled by BILL DAY



NORTHERN IRELAND World Cup boss Billy Bingham has signed a new, three-year contract with the Irish Football Association.

However, Bingham, who has guided his countrymen to a British Championship triumph and World Cup qualification in the past two years, will continue on a part-time basis. "Strange as it may seem, I must be the only part-time manager on a full-time salary," quipped Billy, after clinching his new and lucrative managerial deal with the I.F.A.

Bingham and his assistant, Martin Harvey, share a unique all-time international record.

Both these one-time Ireland teammates are Sunderland's most-capped players, each winning 33 caps in their respective Roker Park careers.

Bruce's tip

THE Football League's current top scorer, West Bromwich Albion star Cyrille Regis, is the man to lead England's attack in Spain, says Bruce Grobbelaar, Liverpool's goalkeeper.

"Cyrille should be playing for England," says Bruce. "He is an impressive spearhead with his speed, control and finishing ability. If he is selected for Spain, he will definitely increase his country's chances in the World Cup. His strength on the ball will keep any defence at full stretch."

Briefly

● Manchester City made a profit of £152,323 for last season — their fifth profit in six years.

● Derry City (1965) and Coleraine (1974) are the only non-Belfast sides to win the Irish League title in the past 20 years.

● In an effort to fight the bad weather, Everton are to install a £75,000 artificial indoors surface at their

training ground at Bellfield.

● Northampton Town, struggling at the bottom of Division Four, have put their 11-acre training ground up for sale in a bid to avoid a financial crisis.

● Former Celtic star Steve Chalmers has two sons who are following in his footsteps.

● Steve junior is a 20-year-old winger with Hampden-based Queen's Park while Paul (17), is at

Celtic and has won Scottish youth honours.

● Dad, of course, scored the winning goal in the European Cup Final of 1967 but nowadays can be found spearheading the giant pools operation at Parkhead.

● Second Division Orient have signed central defender Keith Osgood from Derby for £150,000. As well as the Baseball Ground club Osgood has played for Spurs and Coventry.

worries Albion star

Ham and England midfield star Trevor Brooking in three League Cup-ties — but was booked in each game.

Martin Jol says: "My legs are long and I can tackle opponents from a few metres away. If my opponent is quick he trips over my legs and it looks worse that it really is. I'm the only ball-winner in the West Bromwich Albion midfield, so the emphasis is always on me to tackle.

"I reckon I make at least 30 tackles in every game, so it is obvious the law of averages is against me.

"In three seasons in Holland I received only seven yellow cards.

"Maybe English referees are stricter. It's a pity because the

English public loves hard tackling and it would be a shame if this disappeared from the game.

"I've found the game in England faster because when you have the ball players come at you so quickly. In Holland you have time to play the ball out of defence. Here, someone's on you in seconds.

'Technique'

"Perhaps that's why it looks as if the English players don't have good technique, but it isn't easy when someone closes you down immediately.

"I'm enjoying it here, though. The team's playing well and I think we could even get a place in the UEFA Cup."

TED'S STILL GOING STRONG

NOT an ounce of excess weight, the same dynamic shooting power, a defender beaten for speed in the penalty-box.

Ted MacDougall, once a sharp-shooting striker for a multitude of clubs including Norwich, Southampton and Manchester United, is still going strong on less celebrated grounds than Carrow Road, The Dell and Old Trafford.

He plays for Gosport Borough — and is seen here playing against Poole Town.

MORE FREE STICKERS NEXT WEEK!

ANOTHER TWO packets of stickers for your Panini Football 82 Album will be given away FREE with next week's issue.

You can then buy more stickers from many newsagents in packets of four for 6p until you have collected the complete set of 516.

Free stickers will only be given away with SHOOT dated w/e January 23rd and January 30th.

Don't forget that you can swap "doubles" with your friends.

We regret that overseas readers are not able to share in this scheme which applies to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland only.

Good collecting ...

Peter Stewart
EDITOR

CLYDE full-back Jimmy Miller has joined Queen of the South for the second time. He joined them originally from Aberdeen before being sold to Motherwell for £30,000.

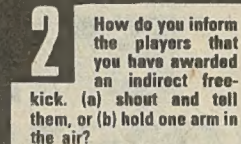
He then left the Larnarkshire club to join Morton before moving to Clyde. This time the deal cost Queen of the South £5,000.

YOU ARE THE REF

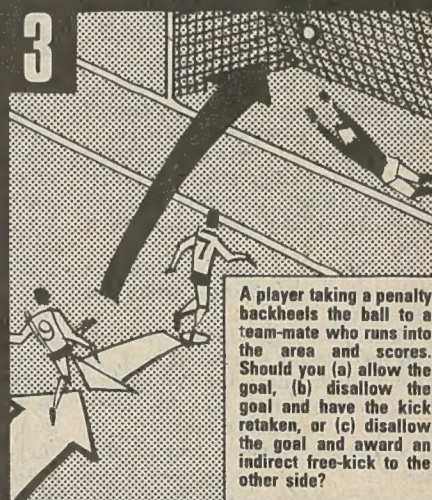
compiled by Keith Hackett



At the taking of a penalty, a defending player stands immediately behind the goal. Should you (a) allow the penalty to be taken, or (b) caution the defender and tell him to stand on the field of play?



How do you inform the players that you have awarded an indirect free-kick. (a) shout and tell them, or (b) hold one arm in the air?



A player taking a penalty backheels the ball to a team-mate who runs into the area and scores. Should you (a) allow the goal, (b) disallow the goal and have the kick retaken, or (c) disallow the goal and award an indirect free-kick to the other side?

MATCH POINT

As playing surfaces start to deteriorate, players will now be thinking about a change of stud in their boots. Aluminium, leather, nylon and moulded rubber will all be used around this time as footballers look to combat the conditions, and as referee it is my job to keep an eye on the choice of footwear. According to the laws of the game, studs must be no less than half an inch in diameter and must have no sharp edges. 15 minutes before kick-off I instruct my linesmen to inspect the studs of every player, and this procedure will be repeated when a sub comes on just in case he has split or damaged studs on the tarmac while warming up. If you suspect any player has been injured because of a faulty stud, you must inspect the culprit's boots immediately and order him to change his footwear if your fears are confirmed.

ANSWERS

1. Caution the defender and tell him to stand on the field of play. 2. Hold one arm in the air. 3. Disallow the goal and award an indirect free-kick to the other side.

Brodie's history

A NEW book has been published to mark the current Centenary Year of reigning Northern Ireland Champions Glentoran.

Entitled "The History of Glentoran Football Club" and written by Belfast journalist Malcolm Brodie, the book traces the story of this proud club, recalling its many triumphs, its struggle for survival after the Oval was blitzed in a World War Two German air raid, great moments in Europe, and all-time-great Glensmen like Johnny Geary, Peter Doherty, Con Martin, Danny Blanchflower, Billy Bingham, Jimmy McIlroy, Bertie Peacock, Sammy Hughes and Terry Conroy.

"ISN'T it about time our football came out of the dark ages? Once again snow and ice has struck and caused the postponement of hundreds of League and Cup games. Why can't we follow the lead of Continental countries and introduce a mid-season break?"

That's the complaint of reader Mike Murphy from Chester, who proudly goes on to claim that he follows Liverpool everywhere.

Sorry, Mike, but I'm dead set against the idea. I think it could ruin English football as we know it. And it's important to bear in mind that only every five years or so do we get hit by a bad spell which causes wholesale cancellations of matches.

Our game is all about playing in different conditions. It breeds players with stamina and true grit.

I've no time for "fair weather" players, who can only do their stuff when the sun's shining and the grass is green.

No, the answer is for clubs to follow the lead of Liverpool and other far-seeing clubs and to install the undersoil heating that can cope with just about everything bar another Ice Age.

Entertaining

The day after our postponed game with Spurs at White Hart Lane, I sat down and watched one of the most entertaining games I've seen on TV, between Manchester City and Sunderland, by courtesy of Maine Road's undersoil heating.

And only a few days later I played on another heated pitch, at Ibrox, against Glasgow Rangers to celebrate the official opening of their new stand.

So there is a way to beat the freeze if clubs will only make the investment.

Some I know are looking favourably at installing artificial turf, as Q.P.R. have done, but I'm against that development for the same reason as I oppose a break.

Non-grass pitches would also



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

adversely affect our game, break completely with tradition. The manager who likened playing on it to "ping-pong" summed it up just right. The ball bounces far too high.

Watch a 'keeper take a fly-kick on artificial turf. After one bounce, it's invariably caught by his opposite number at the other end!

Tackling, a big feature of our football, could disappear because man-made fibre can inflict terrible burns.

Twisting and turning also causes more wear and tear on knees and ankles, shortening playing life.

Grass isn't perfect, but until Mother Nature herself creates something superior I say let's stick with a surface that's served football



Trevor Francis and 'keeper Barry Siddall perform on a Maine Road pitch free of snow.

'MID-SEASON BREAK? NOT FOR ME!'

well for over a hundred years!

"Who is the most promising young newcomer you've played against so far this season?" asks Joe Gibbons of St. Albans, Herts.

Everton's Steve McMahon in our 3-1 derby win at Anfield. Reared by their youth scheme, he really revelled in the occasion, which would have overawed a faint heart, and for me stood out as The Blues' man of the match.

He showed an amazing maturity for his tender years by keeping his head under tremendous pressure, and bore the hallmark of an England player of the future.

Cyrille Regis, the First Division's top scorer, has impressed me over several seasons yet is still only 23. Eighteen goals before December 31 confirmed his progress.

He's always had strength and speed. This season he's added to these assets by perfecting his ball control. Previously he tended to allow the ball to bounce away from him and had to chase after it.

'Steve McMahon — most promising youngster'

His goalscoring has definitely marked him out for consideration by England manager Ron Greenwood for our World Cup trip to Spain.

Now for a question I always find myself struggling to answer. "What's the funniest thing you've seen happen in football?" asks Mary Reagan of Solihull.

The only incident I can recall occurred after the 1974 F.A. Cup Final, when we beat Newcastle United 3-0, and two young fans approached the late Bill Shankly, our manager at the time.

Shanks had always been idolised, but I actually saw him receive a tribute usually reserved for Eastern sultans.

The fans knelt, raised their arms, and swayed up and down. Then they kissed his feet.

It was funny and touching at the same time.

I needed a sense of humour in my

early days in the first team when I went along to make presentations and on several occasions was called "Peter".

Peter Thompson was our right-winger, and I often wondered whether they'd mixed up the invitations.

"In SHOOT recently Ray Clemence was shown with three personal awards. How many have you won?" Another embarrassing question, this time from Martin Wagstaffe of Cromer, Norfolk.

Only one — and that's in my entire career. The Waterford branch of the Liverpool Supporters' Club elected me their Player of the Year in 1977, after we'd won the European Cup for the first time.

Scoring

I'm inclined to think defenders generally miss out in this respect. You've either got to be scoring goals or saving them to get the lion's share of the votes.

Jeremy Hayes, from Woolwich in London, wants to know if, like most players, I have any superstitions.

Sorry to disappoint you, Jeremy, but I don't. I suppose I'm a bit of a fatalist in this respect, believing that what will be, will be.

Two superstitions shared by several Liverpool lads are running out in the same position — I'm always the first, but only because I'm captain — and touching the "This is Anfield" sign above the tunnel entrance.

If I did that with my free hand — the other's holding the ball — I'd probably fall down the steps and bring myself a load of bad luck.

See you next week — and I haven't got my fingers crossed!

Phil Thompson



Everton's promising young talent Steve McMahon goes close with this spectacular effort against Southampton at The Dell this season.

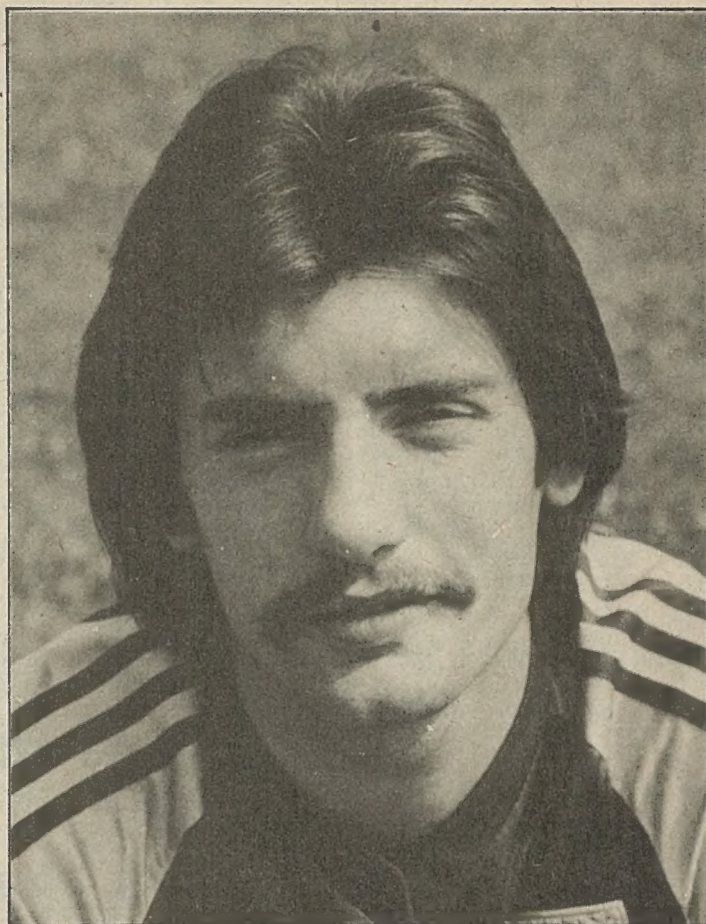
I DON'T PLAY FOR KICKS

Not the Kicks that hurt
says Alan Devonshire
of West Ham and England

Here's something that's going to be of interest to all you footballers – PORTIA ANKLE PROTECTORS.

Like a growing number in the professional game, I wear PORTIA ANKLE

PROTECTORS as insurance against the kind of tackle that gets you rather than the ball. I find they give me added support round the ankles too. I'm sure you'll find they will help your game.



Now here's your chance to help avoid those painful ankle injuries which can so easily occur when your opponent gets his tackle just a little too high.

These revolutionary new ankle protectors can be fitted in seconds and once in position you'll forget you're wearing them.

Enjoy your football more by helping to support and protect vital ankle and Achilles Tendon areas from painful injuries.

PORTIA ANKLE PROTECTORS are on sale in sports shops now, but should you not be able to purchase them at your local sports shop, fill in the order coupon below.

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PORTIA

'VILLA AREN'T ONE-SEASON WONDERS'

PPETER Withe does some hard, fast talking to explain his own and Aston Villa's miserable first half of the season.

Villa's bid to retain the League Championship title has so far been little short of disastrous. Withe, who managed only four goals in Villa's first 19 League games, found himself missing from the England side when Ron Greenwood picked the team to take on Hungary. It was, in all likelihood, a comment on Withe's moderate form in an average Villa side this season.

But bearded Withe, forever the battling competitor, says firmly: "What we had, we haven't lost overnight. That applies to the whole team, not just myself and my partnership with Gary Shaw."

"We took the praise last season, so we've got to take the criticism now. I still believe we are good enough to get back to winning ways. Everyone is saying we're not scoring many goals, so the partnership is not working. But that is not true.

this season. But I recognise the need to get among the goals much more in the second half of the season."

Withe managed over 20 goals last season and was hoping to better that record this time.

"Last season I scored a great many of my goals in the second half of the season. I believe I can do the same this time. Once they start going in I'll keep scoring.

'Frustrating'

"These things tend to go in spells; you have a lean time, and then everything you connect with goes into the net. That's goalscoring — it can be a very frustrating business."

Withe calls for a general raising of individual performances to put back the bite in Villa's play. And if Ron Saunders' side doesn't get it right, will they be called one-season wonders?

"I certainly hope not," says Withe. "That is unfair to anyone. The side which wins the League Championship title thoroughly

Peter Withe strikes back at the critics



Withe heads the winner at Wolves last season, but he hasn't found the back of the net quite so easily this term.

"I've always felt there was more to my game than merely scoring. I try to set up goals for others, too. So although I'm prepared to take my share of responsibility for our disappointment this season, I'm not going to accept all the stick that has been coming my way."

Withe is the first to admit: "There is much to play for in the second half of the season." But was he worried by his absence from England's team which beat Hungary to reach the World Cup Finals?

"Perhaps my lack of goals was the reason, I don't know," he says. "I was disappointed not to win a place, but at least I was in the squad. Not actually playing made me even more determined to try and get in for the next match. Despite the lack of goals, I still feel I have contributed quite a lot so far

deserves it. No one can take away our success, nor belittle it.

"You're not one-season wonders if you win the English League title and then get into the last eight of the European Cup the next season.

"People say our attitude hasn't been right this season. Well, if it means going out and not giving that extra ten per cent, I feel it could be down to attitude. Perhaps some of the players have said 'we're Champions, we don't have to bother'. But whatever the reasons, no one can be under any illusions any more.

"We want to put the winning streak back into Villa in the second half of the season. We'll be going flat out to do that."





CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL FOR YOUNG?

WILLIE Young could not have had a better start to life in a Nottingham Forest shirt had he written the script himself.

A solid defensive performance against Swansea was capped by a debut goal that spurred Forest to an away win that put them back among the First Division leaders.

And it's a position that Young feels Forest can consolidate as the season progresses.

He commented: "I would not have been so keen to join Forest if I had not thought they were capable of winning more honours."

"But with a management team that people rightly regard as the

best in the business, I knew that joining Forest meant a chance of adding a few more medals to my collections.

"I had a lot of success at Arsenal and I'd like more with Forest — and it could happen sooner rather than later.

"To be honest, I don't think there are any outstanding teams in the country at the moment and if we can put together a few results I see no reason why we should not win the League.

"When the season started I thought Ipswich and Tottenham would be the best sides but they haven't pulled away. Ipswich have had a fair share of injuries and Tottenham have dropped some silly points at home.

"We're in a rebuilding process but I'm sure Forest are going to make their presence felt."

And after a productive career with Aberdeen, Tottenham and Arsenal, Young arrived at the City Ground stressing that he's not a short-term signing.

Orthodox

He's already been likened to Forest's last orthodox centre-half Larry Lloyd, who had the best years of his life in Nottingham.

And Young admits: "I'd settle for winning half what Larry did at Forest, but I don't feel as though my time in the game is limited."

"I'm only just 30 and in my position I see no reason why I should not carry on for four or five years at this level.

"I've signed a contract that will take me up to 1984 and if things go as well as I hope they do, I'll be looking for another after that."

"Brian Clough and Peter Taylor

Young will fill the same role as former Forest centre-half Larry Lloyd.

have left me in no doubt that the reason they have brought me to Nottingham is to win the ball in the air. I know I can do that, but they'll get more from me.

"I had reached the stage at Arsenal where I needed a fresh incentive — and I've got one now at Forest."

And mindful of the value and popularity of Lloyd in the Forest number five shirt, assistant manager Peter Taylor commented: "It's a very interesting signing for us and we are confident that Willie can do the same kind of job for us as Larry. And I can't put more faith in him than that."



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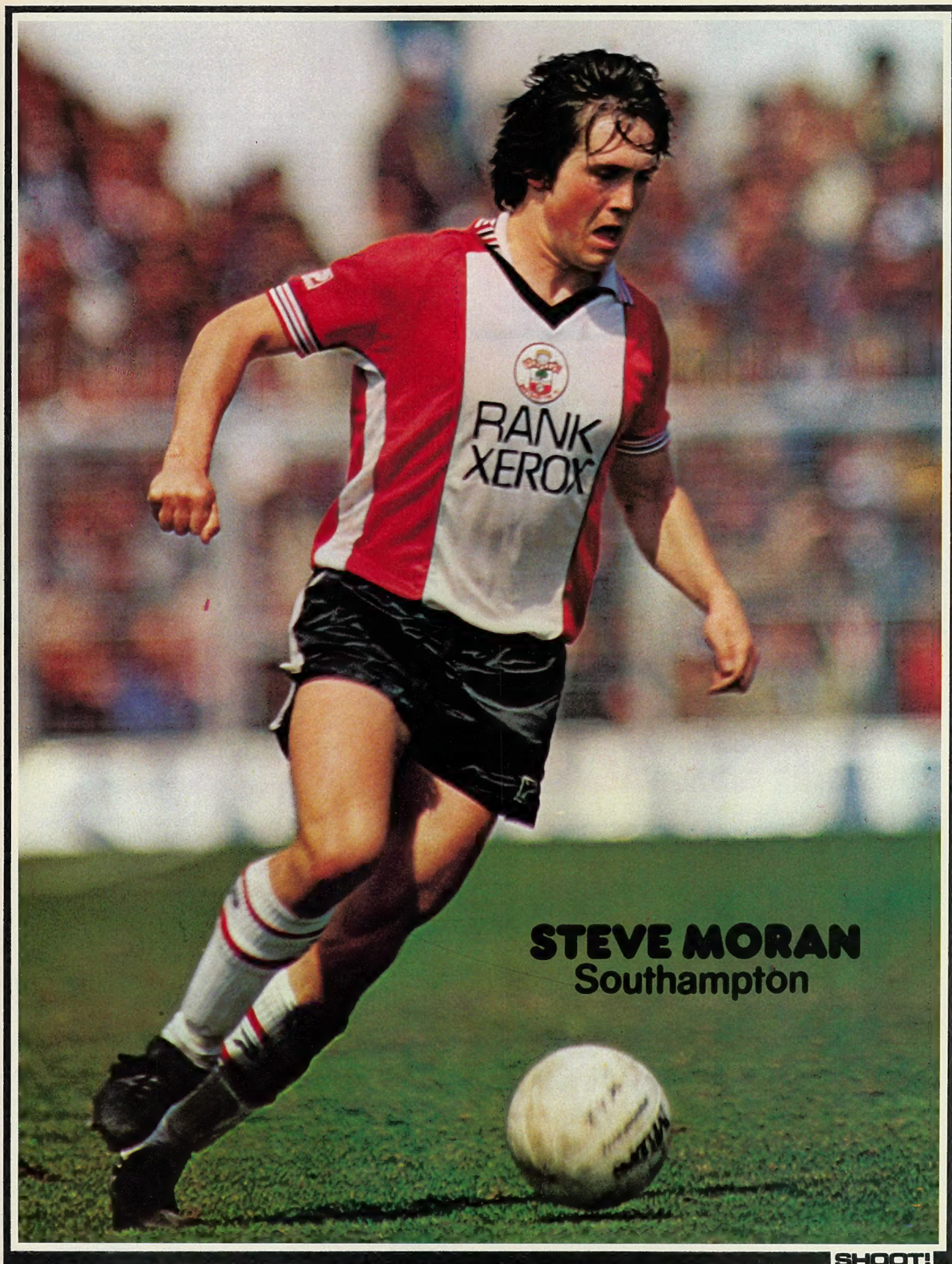
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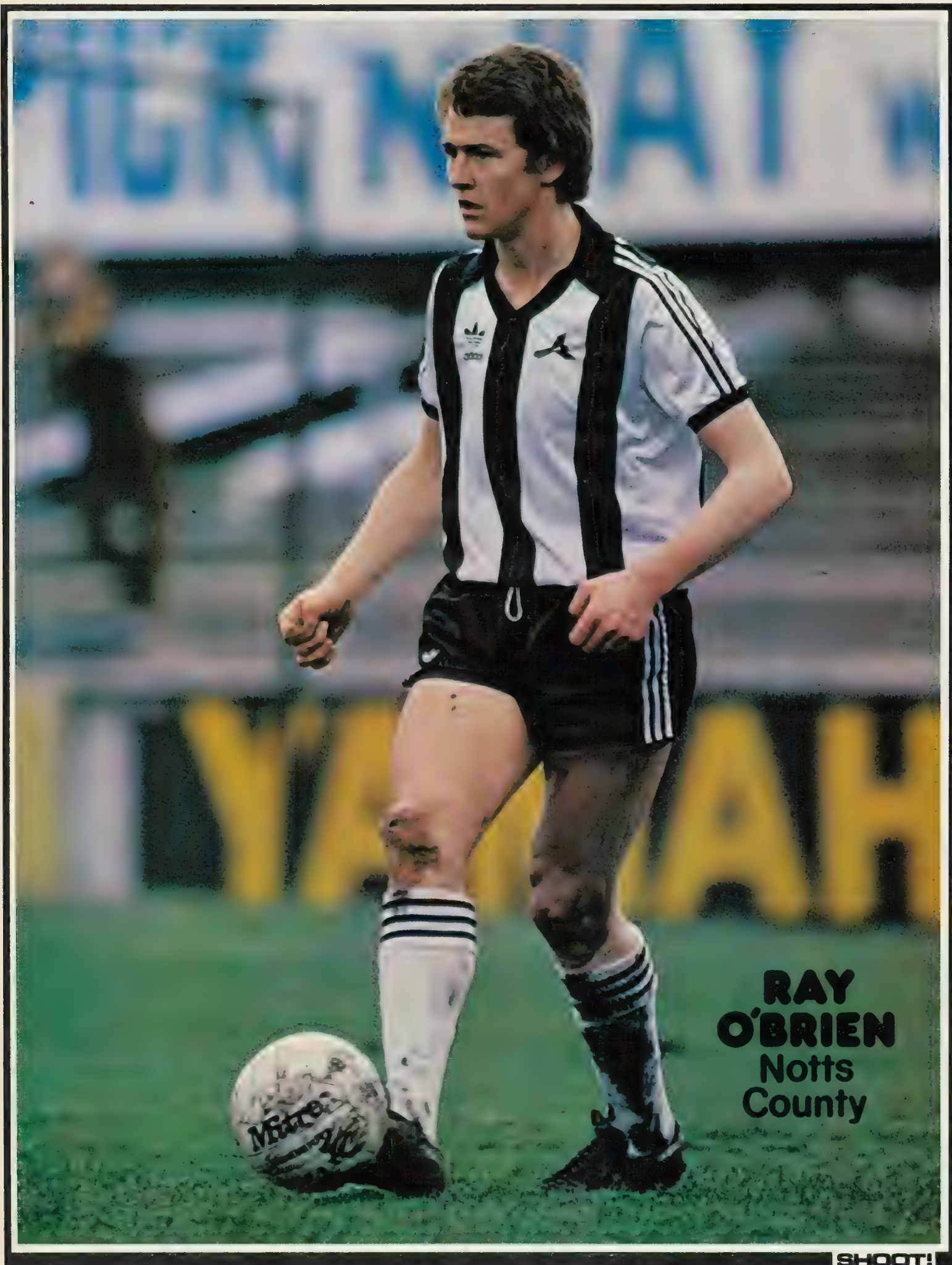
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SHOOT!

THE FALL of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar has already been wreaking havoc in Argentine football, and the latest bad news for Menotti's team as they prepare for their title defence is that as few as 4,000 of their supporters look like making the trip to Spain.

The peso has been devalued so much that World Cup package tours to Spain have tripled in price in the last nine months.

Cruyff's money crisis

JOHAN CRUYFF was forced to make a comeback with Ajax to help pay off his enormous debts.

According to figures published in Holland, Cruyff has lost £2.4m on business ventures. Advisers say the best thing he could do would be to declare bankrupt, but the Dutch ace is keen to do all he can to pay his debts.

"If I have debts, I'll pay them," he says defiantly.

Everything was going well until 1978. Cruyff was a millionaire and had no problems.

Then he and an associate called Basilevitch formed a holding company, CB International, which had eight subsidiaries.

They invested in property in Barcelona, buying offices and spending £600,000 on interior decorations.

Land was acquired in Ibiza. A deal to export cement to Saudi Arabia went wrong, as did a venture involving harbour equipment and some oil paintings.

The biggest loss came when Cruyff bought a pig farm in Spain for £1.6m, but eventually the Banco Central had to sell it to get back some of the money — and they lost a massive £1.4m.

Cruyff, now 34, isn't on the breadline by any means. He's earned a lot of money playing for Levante in the Spanish Second Division and guesting for AC Milan this year, as well as a short spell with Washington Diplomats in North America.

But he still needs to play to make himself financially secure again. His Ajax contract means he takes 50 per cent of the extra fans over and above their normal average gate for every home match.

His debut last month netted him around £20,000.

ALTHOUGH Arnold Muhren's contract ends this summer, it's not certain that he'll leave Ipswich Town.

The deciding factor could be whether Town win the title. While he wants his children to receive a Dutch education, and has been promised a free transfer when his contract is up, Muhren may just be persuaded to stay on for a crack at the European Cup.

Muhren talks about his decision in the Ipswich Town Annual (price £4 inc p&p from the club at Portman Road, Ipswich).

MULLER STORM

VfB STUTTGART'S two German World Cup stars Hansi Muller and Karl-Heinz Forster are up in arms.

The contracts of the VfB players expire at the end of the season and the club told the players that in future they will be paid according to the number of spectators at their last home game.

Hansi Muller complained to the Press: "I cannot understand why centre-forward Dieter Muller and French international left-winger Didier Six were given three-year contracts with solid guarantees about salaries and bonuses when they were transferred to us last summer."

"If I am going to lose financially over this then I will leave the club."

HOOOLIGANS HELP ENGLAND

ENGLAND must thank the army of hooligans who have rioted around Europe for their 1982 World Cup seeding.

Ron Greenwood's team was NOT seeded because England were previous winners. Information from Spain confirms the seeding was agreed for security reasons.

The number one seeds play their three first round games in the same city — in England's case Bilbao.

The Spanish authorities were terrified of what the band of thugs who call themselves England fans could do if they had to travel around the country.

After top level discussions it was



decided that security would be easier if the England fans were kept in one place.

A spokesman for the World Cup organising committee said: "That England are previous winners of the tournament was a convenient let out. We've seen what their supporters have done in Italy, Switzerland and Norway."

"It worried us, but we are confident we can control them if they don't have to move around."

It's an ironic twist for England. Their name has been blackened by the damage a minority of their followers have caused around Europe.

Now, this has worked in their favour.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

THE NEW £3½m stadium at Valladolid is now ready for World Cup action, but the official Press hand-out on the day of its inauguration contains one unusual sentence.

"Access to the pitch," it reads, "for players and match officials will be by means of a mobile tunnel."

A mobile tunnel? What will they think of next?

VILLA'S OLD CLUB IN TROUBLE

IN ARGENTINA there's speculation about the future of Racing, Ricky Villa's former club which, 15 years ago, were World Champions.

Debts have been piling up steadily, and now it has been discovered that an underground stream has badly eroded some of the vital support columns of their stadium in Avellaneda — and there's no money to put it right.

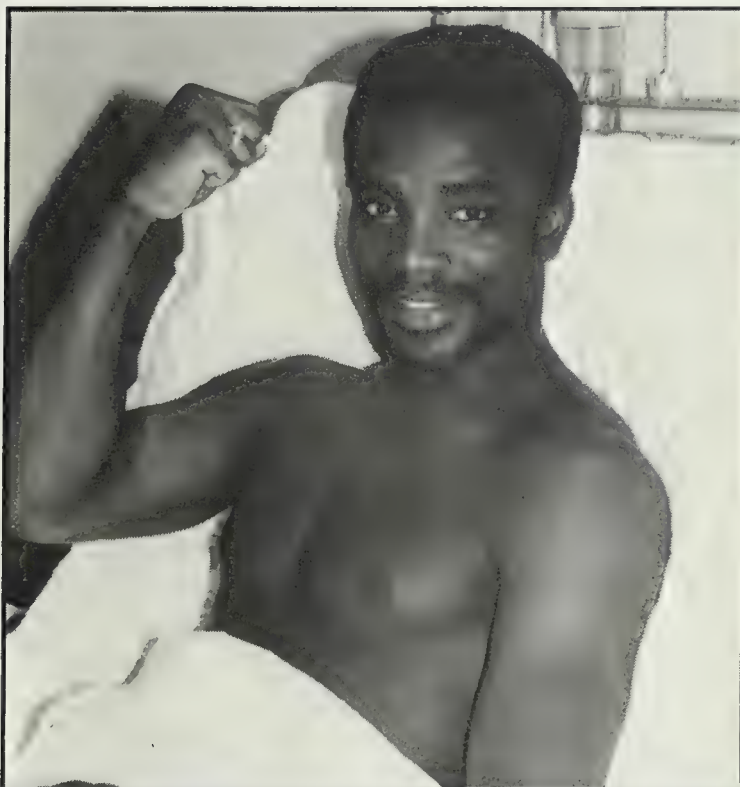
The squad haven't been paid for the last four months, and the team is reduced to renting other team's stadiums for League matches, because the Racing ground doesn't come up to safety standards.

What's more, all this is having the inevitable effect on the team's morale.

A 0-5 home defeat by Rosario Central really put the cat among the pigeons, and manager Jose Pastoriza inevitably took most of the blame.

But Racing have gone through 27 managers in the last 15 years without halting the decline of the once-great club.

NO LUCK FOR LAURIE



LAURIE CUNNINGHAM'S fourth operation was a shock even to the Real Madrid medical staff!

Laurie was on the point of making his League come-back as substitute in Real's easy home game against tail-enders Castellon, but on the Friday he complained of pains in his knee.

Internal examination revealed a fractured cartilage, and within hours he was under the surgeon's knife.

February is now his comeback target, but Laurie's run of bad luck with injuries is reaching record proportions...

News flashes

● Two people died during Barcelona's recent 2-0 home win against Osasuna. One suffered a heart-attack on the terraces, and the other died after falling from the top tier of the Spanish club's newly-enlarged stadium.

● Twenty-four Spanish referees have started legal proceedings against Atlético Madrid president Alfonso Cabeza for

alleging in various interviews that there are First Division referees who accept bribes.

● AZ '67 'christened' their two new giant scoreboards for the visit of Ajax — scoreboards with a big difference. Announcing the teams before the game the fans saw photographs of each of the 22 players in turn projected on to the giant screens. They cost AZ £125,000.

● Algerian international Benmiloudi Hocine has died after suffering a brain haemorrhage during a League match with his club CM Belcourt.

● Ivo Bordon, Inter-Milan goalkeeper, has had a cartilage operation and will be out for at least two months. This will prejudice Inter's League hopes, but also causes national team boss Enzo Bearzot concern for Bordon has been the regular understudy to Dino Zoff for two years.

EVEN THOUGH 110,000 fans turned out to watch Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-1 in the Nou Camp stadium, thousands more were unlucky and couldn't get tickets.

Falling-gate Disease obviously hasn't reached Barcelona yet...

IT SEEMS there's little danger of Diego Maradona missing the World Cup Finals, despite a row with manager Menotti — assuming he's physically fit.

His company, Maradona Productions, has recently sent out over a thousand letters to the world's most important companies suggesting a publicity link-up with Maradona during the World Cup.

'Liverpool still the tops'

I WONDER if we will see the first two million pound player in 1982?

Frankly, I don't think any player can be worth such a fee.

The money that changes hands in English football is mind-boggling, to say the least.

Honestly, players are transferred down south for astronomical fees and are then placed in the reserves. That simply couldn't happen in Scotland.

You would need a calculator to work out how much it will cost a club per game for a player who cost more than £1million. I reckon Bryan Robson will have to play until he's 45 to repay Manchester United after their record deal last year.

The fans, of course, love the glamour of big money signings, but when it actually puts the club in danger of going bankrupt then I think something is very wrong.

I had my first look at Liverpool's £650,000 signing Craig Johnston recently when the Anfield men played us at Ibrox in the official opening of our new stand. What a marvellous player he is.

Impressed

It's difficult to believe that he has spent most of the season in the reserves when he has so much class, flair and style. I was greatly impressed with Craig, and Liverpool will undoubtedly get value for money from him.

Liverpool actually beat us 2-0 that evening and to be honest they were a different class. In the second-half they moved up a gear and there was nothing we could do about it.

The gaffer, John Greig, has said that he still thinks Liverpool can win the English First Division title and I am not going to argue with that, despite their shock 3-1 defeat at home to Manchester City a few weeks ago.

Our game will prove to be invaluable to the younger Rangers players. It let them see at first hand the class which we must strive to achieve if we are to make an impact on the European scene again. Yes, Liverpool were that good.

And while we're on the topic of



ABOVE: Sandy Jardine, only the third Rangers player to receive a testimonial game.
RIGHT: Liverpool's Craig Johnston, who has only just gained a regular place in their first team.

glamour friendlies I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Sandy Jardine on being awarded a testimonial by the club.

Sandy, 32, has been a magnificent servant to Rangers and thoroughly deserves this award. He is the third Rangers player to be given such a game.

John Greig, of course, received one four years ago when we played a Scottish international select and Colin Jackson was honoured this season with a match against Everton.

There have been rumours that Rangers will play another Scottish

international line up before Jock Stein's men fly off to Spain for the World Cup Finals and I hope this turns out to be accurate.

Sandy would surely have won an awful lot more honours for his country had he not been in opposition to such a splendid full-back as Celtic's Danny McGrain.

It's a pity that two such fine players have come along at the same time.

Scotland seem unfortunate in these player clashes. The game today is crying out for colourful characters and yet a few years back Jimmy Johnstone and Willie Henderson were both battling for the outside-right position for Scotland. Both would have been regulars if only they had come along at separate intervals.

Talking about transfers, how much would Jimmy Johnstone and Willie Henderson fetch on today's inflated market?

The bidding would have to start at £2 million!

Anyway, that'll all from me for now. Take care of yourself and I'll see you again in two weeks' time.

Ally Dawson

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



NOBBY

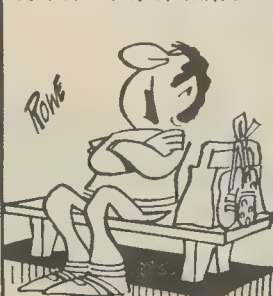
THE GAME'S BEEN SNOWED OFF TODAY, LADS



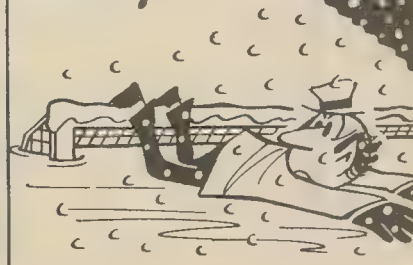
THE REF WENT OUT THERE AND FELL FLAT ON HIS FACE



WELL, THAT'S NO REASON TO POSTPONE A MATCH



IT IS, YOU KNOW, HE TRIPPED OVER THE CROSSBAR!



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WHEN Pat Corbett, 19, scored with his first kick in the last minute after Spurs had sent him on at Southampton on October 31 this season as an 87th minute substitute for his Football League debut many a fan must have felt it to be the swiftest-ever scoring start by any youngster new to the game.

But it wasn't, as Southampton fans especially, and, possibly a number of others, have good cause to know.

It so happens that two rising starlets, who are quartered at The Dell, both first burst upon the football scene with even more dramatic and rapid impact.

Graham Baker (above), when 18, made his debut in November, 1977, against Blackpool and scored within 58 seconds; while Steve Moran, a fellow Saint, went on as an 86th minute substitute against Manchester City in January, 1980, for his debut — and likewise hit the target with his first kick.

Launched

Then there was Peter Ward, now with Forest, who was launched into League life in March, 1976, by Brighton at Hereford. It took him just 50 seconds to score — with his first kick.

It was a similar sort of a start that current Norwich City striker Keith Bertschin made in his first League game for Ipswich Town at Arsenal in April, 1976. A 70th-minute substitute, he hit a goal within a minute.

Swansea City's Jeremy Charles is another who got in on the swift-fire scoring start on a debut occasion. It was against Newport County in the League Cup in August, 1976.

He was a 72 minute sub, his first touch brought a goal, and he added another five minutes from the end.

Arsenal's Graham Rix was a scorer against Leicester City after three minutes in his debut match in April, 1977.

First Division

18th October 1980
28th December 1981

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
12	0	4	8	11	26	4	22nd
20	10	4	6	29	22	34	1st

THE biggest problem I have had to wrestle with after climbing from bottom place in the First Division to the top in 14 months is to ask myself whether the success has come too early in the plans laid down to make Manchester City the most successful club in the Football League.

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine we would head the First Division so early after my arrival at Maine Road from Norwich.

So much has been achieved in little over a year that I feel so very grateful for all the hard work put in by the backroom staff and the players.

The players, above all must take most of the credit. That goal by Trevor Francis against Wolves just after Christmas was a lifesaver.

In half a dozen strides and a stunning shot into Wolves' net at Maine Road, Trevor proved to me what I have always believed — that he is the greatest striker in the country.

It might surprise some of you to know that I have had to criticise Trevor since his £1 million transfer from Nottingham Forest.

"You're not doing enough for me," I'll moan.

To Trevor's eternal credit, he has responded magnificently to my cajoling. I've often asked myself what would happen if the likes of Trevor turned round and said "Get stuffed".

But they don't, because they are true professionals, fully prepared to learn at any stage of their careers even though they have commanded huge transfer fees.

Trevor won't score a better goal than that winner in four, five, six, seven years of playing for City.

It was born of the genius he possesses from head to foot. If you watch Trevor closely in training you

will notice that he is always attempting what to lesser men would be the impossible.

His efforts remind me of the sheer impudence displayed by Pele in the 1970 World Cup when he attempted to score a goal from the halfway line against Czechoslovakia.

JOHN BOND
WRITES
EXCLUSIVELY
FOR SHOOT!



'PROUD CITY STRIKE IT RICH'



Trevor Francis, whose brilliant winner against Wolves took City to the top of the League.

I never in my wildest dreams imagined Trevor would be so clinical a finisher as he has proved to be since signing for City.

I shall be disappointed if he doesn't start doing it for England soon.

My decision to get as much experience and ability into the club as we could afford has paid handsome dividends.

Tommy Hutchison, Gerry Gow, Asa Hartford, Bobby McDonald and Trevor have been successful buys. Asa's contribution has shown that even a man of Cloughie's capabilities can be vulnerable. He reckoned the Scottish midfielder man would not fit into his team pattern. So be it. We are more than satisfied

further their careers.

Credit, also, must be given to Clive Wilson and Steve Kinsey, who have been drafted into the team with the minimum of fuss in important games.

Both are highly talented boys bred locally, for whom I must thank previous managements.

'Greatest wish'

They earned their places when Dennis Tueart and Bobby McDonald joined an injury list that has been worrying. My greatest wish for '82 is that Gerry Gow, Paul Power and Dennis Tueart can regain full fitness to carry on the good work.



Kevin Bond scores his first goal for the club in the crucial win at Liverpool.

with Asa's quietly efficient efforts on our behalf.

Mind you, I've had to give them some stick in shaping-up the team for the demands of the First Division.

'No apologies'

They call me a bit of a bully. Even the senior players have said how much they have to take from me. All I can say in my defence is: No apologies, that's my style chaps.

I have had to tell Hutch and others on occasions that in my opinion they are not doing their stuff on the pitch. Hutch reckons that I have given him more blasts at City than he received in eight years at Coventry.

No sulking, no recriminations, they have taken it like men.

They appreciate, of course, that I might even help to add a new dimension to their game, and thus

The character of this club is something to behold. I knew when I joined that without courage, hard work, tolerance and ambition we would remain firmly rooted to the bottom of the First Division and probably drop into the Second.

Thankfully, the Dennis Tueart's of this world, who could be forgiven for being a little sour, have responded to the challenge.

You only had to watch the effort put in by all parties against Liverpool, which resulted in City's first League victory at the Anfield fortress in 28 years.

Forget the bottle-throwing incident, that is something Liverpool must sort out as they surely will.

That day, to me, marked a breakthrough in the resurrection of Manchester City Football Club.

John Bond



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A: Ipswich's John Wark and Graeme Souness of Liverpool don't seem to be enjoying this near close encounter.

B: When it comes to Kung Fu, Ipswich Town's John Warks it.

C: Graeme Souness and John Wark looked skilled at hop Scotch!

D: Scottish reel — well, almost. John Wark and Graeme Souness might be team-mates for Scotland, but there's no quarter given when Ipswich and Liverpool clash.

E: John Wark scores over Graeme Souness when it comes to Karate.

J: Liverpool's Graeme Souness doesn't appear to think much of John Wark's Karate chop to the spare ribs.

K: Three points for a win — two falls or a submission to decide the winner!

L: It's Graeme Ooohness as John Wark makes his point.

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Entries received after the closing date or incomplete, ineligible or mutilated, or not complying exactly with the instructions and rules will be disqualified. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed or lost in the post or elsewhere. Winners will be notified and the results published later in SHOOT.

'SPURS FOR THE TITLE'

I THOUGHT Tottenham were going to struggle this season. Well, at least I did for a while when the club were hit by so many injuries.

But there was no slump because the youngsters who came in did such a man-sized job and kept us in touch with the First Division leaders.

When manager Keith Burkinshaw has a fully fit squad there's no telling what Spurs can achieve. The boss will also have a problem . . . who to leave out!

It's encouraging to hear so many people praising the team this season for their entertaining, enterprising style. We took a lot of stick last year for letting in so many goals.

At one stage of the competition the footballers faced a team of rugby players and were getting a real bashing. There was no way we could win, but Ron kept urging us on until we actually believed we could come out on top.

I certainly wish Ron Atkinson every success at Manchester

but they have developed some exciting youngsters such as Robbie James and Jeremy Charles who've taken the First Division by storm.

It's strange not to see Liverpool leading the First Division at this stage of the season, at least six points clear of the pack.

Naturally I don't know what's gone wrong at Anfield. If I did I'm sure manager Bob Paisley would be on the phone to me!

Maybe they've got too many players past 30 . . . men who've been doing it for too long.

Some people put a lot of the blame for Liverpool's slump on Kenny Dalglish. He might not be scoring many goals, but my Scotland mate is still making a valuable contribution to the side.

No club can count on one man to score all their goals.

Liverpool will bounce back just as they did last season when after a slow start they won the League and European Cups.

Two players who've stood out for me this season are England captain Kevin Keegan and West Brom striker Cyrille Regis.

Tremendous

Kevin has really bounced back to his best form with some tremendous displays for Southampton.

The critics really slammed him last season after his return from Hamburger SV.

But he was carrying an injury and forced himself to play because of the pressure he was under. People expected miracles from him.

It took a great deal of courage to keep plugging away as Kevin did. This season he's injury free and showing the fans the pace and power that contributed so much to Liverpool's successes during the 70's.

Cyrille Regis is also having a fabulous season and is justly tipped to wear the England number nine shirt in Spain.

The Albion striker is a real athlete. He is so fast, like a greyhound, and tremendously exciting to watch. I'd certainly hate to have to mark the big fella.

Spurs play Middlesbrough at White Hart Lane this Saturday (January 16th).

They are having a tough time this season following the enforced sale of so many of their leading players. I feel sorry for manager Bobby Murdoch who is doing his best on very limited resources.

We won last season's corresponding match 3-2 and I can't forecast anything but maximum points for Spurs again.

Back in two week's time . . .

Up front with
**STEVE
ARCHIBALD**



Much of the criticism was justified, but it made the players even more determined to rectify the fault.

I believe most of the defensive leaks have now been sealed thanks to some hard work and new goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

So don't write off Spurs for the title just yet, or dismiss my capabilities as a striker. Despite my injury problems I'm still confident of scoring a fair number of goals this season.

I haven't become a bad player overnight, or lost my natural goalscoring instincts. I'll be back with a bang, mark my words!

Apart from Tottenham's trophy challenge I'm delighted Manchester United are doing so well.

Problems

I thought it would take new manager Ron Atkinson at least a year to sort out United's problems and rebuild the team into one good enough to take the title.

Big Ron has proved me wrong. He's done a fantastic job restoring some of the glamour, excitement and hope to Old Trafford.

I met Ron last summer when I competed in the "Super Teams" tournament. He was coach to the team of footballers.

Apart from being one of the nicest blokes in the game, Ron's ability to motivate is incredible.

ABOVE: Spurs and Manchester United battle it out at the top of the League.
RIGHT: Cyrille Regis could be the man to lead England in Spain.

United, providing it's not at Tottenham's expense, of course.

Swansea must be the biggest surprise packet of the season. Few expected them to last the pace after starting so well.

But they have, often bouncing back with a good result after dropping points. That's the sign of a good team.

Manager John Toshack, awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours, could well do for Swansea what Brian Clough and Peter Taylor have achieved for Nottingham Forest.

Cloughie laid the foundations for future success with players thought to be past their best. Yet the likes of John McGovern, Kenny Burns, Ian Bowyer, Larry Lloyd and John O'Hare responded with 100 per cent performances.

Tosh gave Ian Callaghan, Leighton Phillips and Leighton James a second chance and they produced promotion winning form.

When they came up Forest strengthened the side by introducing youngsters and paid big money for Trevor Francis.

Swansea haven't spent fortunes,



Steve Archibald

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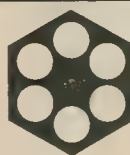
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

A RICHLY talented group of West Ham players are looking well beyond the domestic frontiers of the English First Division in search of glory on foreign fields in 1982.

Led by Trevor Brooking, their clear ambition is to force an entry into England's squad for the World Cup Finals starting in Spain in five months time.

Brooking, The Hammers' gifted midfield maestro, is a certainty to travel with Ron Greenwood's side — but also aboard the plane to Spain could be Alan Devonshire, Alvin Martin, Paul Goddard and Phil Parkes, Britain's most expensive goalkeeper.

Their determination to influence Greenwood's selection is a major bonus to West Ham in the second half of their first season back in the top flight.

West Ham's manager John Lyall will not find it necessary to stimulate the energies of this group whatever fixture backlog might develop requiring them to



Paul Goddard takes on the Middlesbrough defence. Now the West Ham striker is looking to break into the full England team in time for the World Cup Finals in Spain.

Hammers' stars chase World Cup glory

play several matches with little rest between games.

There is no hungrier animal than a professional footballer living in hope of achieving the ultimate honour in his career — selection for his country.

Martin, West Ham's tall, commanding centre-half, almost certainly booked his passage with a solid display in England's lifesaving game against Hungary.

He was largely instrumental in West Ham possessing one of the best defensive records away from home at the turn of the year. Power in the air, cool, clinical tackling, and a developing awareness in using the long ball with accuracy, should win him Greenwood's nod of approval.

Stranglehold

Phil Parkes suffers the eternal problem of breaking the stranglehold on England's goal held by Ray Clemence, Peter Shilton and Joe Corrigan. His performances after missing three early season games have been exceptional.

At the end of 1981 West Ham had lost only two games with Parkes in the team, the League Cup-tie against West Bromwich Albion and First Division encounter against Arsenal, both at home.

But if West Ham's goalkeeper is likely to miss out this summer, Alan Devonshire and Paul Goddard could propel themselves from the fringes of England selection to the very team Greenwood uses in the early World Cup matches.

Both players make a mockery of the popularly held theory that English players are short of skill. Their performances this season have enabled West Ham to consolidate their position in the



Alvin Martin



Alan Devonshire

Division defences has thrust him into the England limelight.

The London born midfield star was playing non-League soccer for Southall just over five years ago.

Twenty three goals in 55 games last season confirmed Goddard's promise as an England candidate.

John Lyall's decision to risk £800,000 on buying the 22-year-old striker from Q.P.R. has been fully justified and his efforts for West Ham this season, for England Under-21's and for the London F.A. against the senior England team offer him a real hope of gaining a place in England's squad for Spain.

The arrival of £400,000 Francois van der Elst from the New York Cosmos will add even greater fire to their already prolific attacking powers.

Geoff Pike has become one of the club's most influential midfield men; David Cross, imported from West Bromwich Albion for £180,000 has repaid the value of that cheque over and over again with his goalscoring exploits.

Even Brooking, unrecognised as a goalscorer, carried out Lyall's instructions to get among the First Division scorers.

West Ham have slipped to a mid-table position after leading the First Division briefly in September, but there are no worried frowns at Upton Park as Hammers fans prepare to buy England scarves to wear under their claret and blue knitwear.

It is a safe bet that many West Ham fans will forsake the lure of Clacton-on-Sea this summer for holidays in Spain from June 13-July 11.

HONOURS

Second Division Champions: 1957-58, 1980-81.

F.A. Cup winners: 1964, 1975, 1980.

European Cup-Winners' Cup winners: 1964-65.

First Division after their triumphant promotion at the end of last season.

Fears that The Hammers would struggle in a highly competitive First Division have not materialised. Players have been quietly off-loaded from Upton Park to be replaced by a dynamic group of youngsters, such as Devonshire and Goddard, who harness a streak of ruthless efficiency to their undoubted skills.

Devonshire's ability to slice like a razor through the tightest First

WEST



HAM

BACK ROW (left to right): Nicky Morgan, Paul Brush, Tom McAlister, Alvin Martin, Phil Parkes, Trevor Brooking, Billy Bonds.
MIDDLE ROW: Frank Lampard, George Cowie, Paul Goddard, Alan Devonshire, Ray Stewart, David Cross.
FRONT ROW: Stuart Pearson, Pat Holland, Paul Allen, Bobby Barnes, Geoff Pike, Jimmy Neighbour.



QUIZ TIME



MANAGERS

1. Stoke City have had seven managers since the last War. Bob McGrory, Frank Taylor, Tony Waddington, Alan A'Court, Alan Durban and Richie Barker are six... can you name the other?
2. Who is manager of Third Division Exeter City?

3. Dave Bassett (left) is manager of which Third Division club?

4. Who did Ian Porterfield replace as manager of Sheffield United during the last pre-season?

5. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of Scotland's top managers and his club... MJcNMLAE (EDDNEUUD-TEIN).

PAST STARS...

1. Ex-England striker Jimmy Greaves played for three League clubs during his career... can you name them?
2. Former Celtic star Tommy Gemmell made 16, 17 or 18 full appearances for the Scotland international side?
3. Was Denis Law, Alan Ball or Malcolm Macdonald the first player to cost £100,000 or more?
4. Did former Wolves striker Derek Dougan win full international caps for Wales, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland?
5. Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough had his playing career wrecked by injury when he collided with a goalkeeper on Boxing Day, 1962. Was he playing for Sunderland, Middlesbrough or Newcastle United at the time?



DEFENDERS

1. Phil Neal, Phil Thompson and Alvin Martin were three of England's back-four in their crucial World Cup qualifying game against Hungary at Wembley... can you name the other player?
2. Birmingham City's Colin Todd has played for three other League clubs. Name them?
3. Which two players filled the full-back positions for Spurs against Manchester City in last season's F.A. Cup Final?
4. Doug Rougvie plays in defence for which Scottish Premier Division club?
5. Which one of these players — Mike Doyle (left, Stoke), Brian Kilcline (Notts County) or Gary Hamson (Leeds United) — is not a recognised defender?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Fourth Division Peterborough United play their home games at London Road and are nicknamed The Posh.
2. Leicester City striker Gary Lineker (white shorts, right) began his League career with Port Vale before joining the club from Filbert Street.
3. Portsmouth from the Third Division have won the Football League Championship on three occasions.
4. Davie Hayes is starring for Morton in the Scottish Premier Division.
5. Southampton striker Mike Channon has played for England on 60 occasions.

ANSWERS:

TRUE OR FALSE? 1. True, 2. False — he has only played for Leicester. 3. False — they have won it twice. 4. True, 5. False — he played 46 times. MANAGERS: 1. George Eastham, 2. Brian Godfrey, 3. Wimbledon, 4. Mar. United). DEFENDERS: 1. Mick Mills, 2. Sunderland, 3. Scotland, 4. Aston Villa, 5. Blackpool and Cardiff City. 400th game, 3. Scotland, 4. Aston PRESENT: 1. Everton, 2. 14th in his 4. Northern Ireland, 5. Sunderland, 10th and West Ham, 2. 18, 3. Law, 1. Chelsea, 2. Tottenham, 3. Tottenham, 4. Tottenham, 5. Tottenham. PAST STARS: 1. Chelsea, 2. Tottenham, 3. Tottenham, 4. Tottenham, 5. Tottenham. Houghton (left-back), 4. Aberdeen, 5. Perryman (right-back) and Chris Houghton (left-back), 4. Aberdeen, 5. Land, Derby and Everton, 3. Steve

... AND PRESENT

1. Neville Southall is playing goal-keeper for which First Division club?
2. Kevin Keegan scored his 13th, 14th or 15th League goal of the season against Swansea at The Dell on his 300th, 400th or 500th League appearance?
3. Notts County's Don Masson (right) is an international for which country?
4. Coventry City's Steve Hunt was signed from New York Cosmos... but with which Football League club did he start his career?
5. Tony Evans of Birmingham City has played for two other League clubs... can you name them?





BIG-MONEY English clubs getting ready to form a queue for Paul Sturrock, Scottish soccer's hottest property, are in for some bad news.

It looks as though the Dundee United raider has absolutely no intention of leaving Scotland.

HANDS OFF STURROCK!

The slimly-built and so-lethal Sturrock is ready to turn his back on English football and refuse to join that well-worn star trek across the border.

Sturrock, on a long term contract at Tannadice, already has a video hire business in Dundee and is set to become a publican and open a pub close to United's ground.

The 25-year-old attacker has also recently bought a new house and his wife Barbara has presented him with their first child.

"Things have been a bit hectic," admits Sturrock, "but I wouldn't have it any other way."

"I won't let my outside interests disturb my football... that's just not on. I'm determined to keep the

momentum going for United and keep my fingers crossed that I get the nod from Jock Stein for a place in his World Cup pool."

Barring a major disaster, Sturrock will be performing in the World Cup Finals and his value is bound to soar if he continues to play as he has done since the start of the season.

Tannadice manager Jim McLean admits he turned down a bid of

over £1½ million for the player earlier in the term. McLean wouldn't disclose the name of the team because, as he says: "They did everything by the book and I appreciate that."

However, an educated guess would bring West Ham, still delighted with their last import from United, Ray Stewart, into play on the transfer front.

Manchester United, too, are believed to have watched Sturrock, but United are in no mood to part company with their top marksman and it seems Sturrock has no intention of leaving Tannadice.

Sturrock's international team-mate David Narey was in a similar position a few years ago

when Spurs and Aston Villa were linked with him.

But, like Sturrock, he signed a long term contract and he says: "I'm happy at Tannadice and I couldn't get a better manager than Jim McLean."

"Okay, I might not be earning what the top stars in England are picking up, but money isn't everything."

Sturrock harmonises those sentiments and both players know they will be well looked after by the ambitious Tannadice side even after their playing careers are over.

Things have gone extremely well for Sturrock, who, of course, scored Scotland's last World Cup goal. It came against Portugal in Lisbon in the final qualifying game and the player says: "It was early in the game when I put that one away and I wish I had added to that score."

'Defeat'

"We eventually lost 2-1 to the Portuguese and that prevented us from going through our section without a defeat."

That game in Lisbon finished at 10.50pm on Wednesday night. At 9am on Thursday in Dundee Paul Sturrock was behind a desk at college concentrating on his business studies.

He's certainly a player in a rush... but not, it appears, to England.

That news will be scowled upon by envious English managers, but stay-at-home Sturrock may convince other players that Scottish soccer isn't so bad, after all.

THIS time next year Motherwell will surely be playing in the Premier Division.

That simple statement would have been scoffed at, even laughed at, a few months ago when the once-proud Fir Park side were wallowed in their five opening League Cup games. Even a ten-man Partick Thistle side managed to beat them 1-0.

Drastic action was needed... and it was taken. The Motherwell board fired former Scotland manager Ally MacLeod and, after a short spell as interim boss, eventually gave the job to his assistant Davie Hay.

Since then the struggling Fir Park club have been transformed. They are destroying the opposition week in, week out.

'Simple'

What's the secret of their new found success? Former Celtic, Chelsea and Scotland star Davie Hay says: "There's no such thing as a magic wand in football. We're doing well because we are working hard. It's as simple as that."

"I don't accept that we will win the First Division title. I don't even admit that we are as good as promoted. Attitudes like that only lead to trouble."

"We might be in a good position, but I will take nothing for granted until it is mathematically impossible for us not to be caught. And there is still quite a way to go before that can happen."

NO STOPPING MOTHERWELL

"Until then we will continue to take each game as it comes along. That's the attitude I expect from myself and my players."

Hay, though, must be quietly delighted at some of his team's outstanding displays, and they could complete the season as Britain's top League scorers. After only 18 games they had scored 51

times.

Amazingly, Hay has breathed life into Motherwell without the help of a cheque book. In fact, he hasn't bought one player, although there were reports that he was ready to part with £100,000 for Airdrie's consistent marksman Sandy Clark.

Hay has utilised the same players that were there at the start of the season and rejuvenated their careers.

Alfie Conn, signed by Ally MacLeod, says: "I owe a lot to Davie Hay. He talks a lot of common-sense and knows what this game is all about. The Premier Division? It's a nice thought, but, like the boss, no one at Fir Park is talking about playing in the Top Ten until it becomes hard fact."

But only disaster could blow Motherwell off the promotion trail and no one is predicting any such happening.

Ally MacLeod always insisted Motherwell were a Premier Division club taking up temporary residence in the First Division. But their fans were frightened that the stay could become a permanent one until their team's startling



Motherwell sweeper Steve McLelland clears against Partick Thistle.



return to form.

Certainly Motherwell would be welcomed back into the Premier Division with open arms. They have the sort of flamboyant performers soccer fans crave for.

They have Scotland's most eccentric goalkeeper in Hugh Sproat. They have the midfield skills of Brian McLaughlin, a player wanted by Dundee United.

Winger John Gahagan has a host of admirers and striker Willie Irvine is another potentially explosive talent.

Add to that the name of Alfie Conn and it's no wonder the bookies already rate Motherwell as good as in the Premier Division.

And after that? "We'll wait and see," says Davie Hay. "Whatever happens we will keep working at our game and striving to improve."



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Thijssen's cheering for England now

FOOTBALLER of the Year Frans Thijssen will be shouting for England when the World Cup Finals take place in Spain next summer!

Now that his native Holland have failed to qualify for this eagerly-awaited soccer jamboree the 29-year-old Ipswich Town schemer has temporarily transferred his allegiance to his adopted country.

"It's the least I can do after the way I've been treated by everyone since Bobby Robson brought me over here two-and-a-half years ago," he explained.

"Everybody at Ipswich has been marvellous to me and my Dutch compatriot Arnold Muhren. They soon made us feel part of the set-up.

'Performed'

"The fans have been wonderful, not only at Portman Road but everywhere we've performed.

"And the Press paid me the marvellous tribute of voting me their 'Player of the Year' last season — the greatest honour of my career.

"So after my happy experiences over here I feel it my duty to back England in Spain."

But Thijssen won't be putting his money on Ron Greenwood's men. He can't see them being strong enough to stop Brazil, Argentina or West Germany.

Yet he is full of admiration for the way England disposed of Hungary at Wembley to qualify for the Finals, and was especially glad



that his Ipswich team-mate Paul Mariner scored the winner.

"However, I don't think there's quite enough skill in the side at the moment," he says. "I would like to see ball players like Alan Devonshire and Tony Morley given a good run in the national team before it begins the fight for the World Cup.

"Both of them are very fast and tricky and would strengthen England as an attacking force."

Thijssen believes that West Ham midfielder star Alan Devonshire should be given an extended run in the international team.

He confesses to being a keen admirer of England skipper Kevin Keegan and says if example, effort and enthusiasm were all that counted in the World Cup, Greenwood's players would walk away with the trophy.

"But a team with ambitions of proving itself number one needs more than that," he says sadly.

Still, Thijssen, who like most Dutch folk speaks good English, reckons he'll be able to jump for joy before setting off on his summer holidays with his wife and two daughters.

He believes Ipswich are good enough to win the League title. "We're a good team and once we

ABOVE: Thijssen (right) and fellow Dutchman Arnold Muhren team up with Ipswich team-mate Paul Mariner to cheer England in the World Cup.

LEFT: Aston Villa's Tony Morley (dark shirt) could add pace and control to England's World Cup plans for Spain.

find our best form I think we'll take a lot of stopping," he added. "But Manchester United, Spurs and West Ham look a big threat."

The skilful Thijssen says he will always be grateful to Bobby Robson for persuading him to throw in his lot with Ipswich three seasons ago.

"Until then I was with FC Twente and was becoming a bit disillusioned with soccer in Holland," he says.

"It's a different game over here — quicker, cleaner, with the players putting more passion into their work. On the Continent the emphasis is on possession. Here, long passing is encouraged.

'Entertainment'

"Soccer's much more exciting in England. The fans get a lot more entertainment than they do on the Continent.

"And as a player I certainly get much more enjoyment out of the game."

The only cloud on Thijssen's horizon is that at 29 his hopes of ever playing in a World Cup Final have probably disappeared.

"Holland will be looking for younger players in four years' time," he says.

But, ever the optimist, he lives in hope that his experience will win him a place when the time comes.

"That is a long way off yet, though. My main aim now is to win the League with Ipswich."

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LINE-UPS...RESULT

Saturday, Dec 12

(continued)

Scottish Cup

(First Round)

ARBROATH (0) 0
MEADOWBANK (0) 2 (Jobson, Sproat) 592

Sunday, Dec 13

World Club Championship

FLAMENGO (3) 3 (Nunes 2, Adilio)
LIVERPOOL (0) 0 (in Tokyo) 62,000
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Thompson, Hansen, Law-
renson, Kennedy (R), Lee, McDermott (Johnson), Sou-
ness, Johnston, Daiglish.

Tuesday, Dec 15

First Division

SWANSEA (2) 2 (James (R) 2)
ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Thompson (og)) 15,191
Swansea: Davies, Stanley, Marustik, Rajkovic, Steven-
son, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Thomp-
son, Latchford.
Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Williams, Deacy
(Linton), Bremner, Shaw, Gaddis, Cowans, Morley.

League Cup

(Fourth Round)

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1 (Langley)
WEST BROM (2) 3 (Monaghan, Regis 2) 10,311
Palace: Barron, Bason, Boulter, Murphy, Cannon,
Lovell, Brooks, Smillie, Langley, Price (Walsh), Hilaire.
West Brom: Grew, Batson, Bennett, King, Wile, Robert-
son (Lewis), Arthur, Monaghan, Regis, Owen, Mac-
kenzie.

SWINDON (1) 2 (Carter, Pritchard (H))
SUTTON (1) 1 (Joyce) 2,890

Replay
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Crawford, Williams)
DORCHESTER (1) 1 (Steele) AET 6,766

Wednesday, Dec 16

F.A. Cup

(Second Round)

BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Roberts)
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Allinson) 5,550

Saturday, Dec 19

First Division

EVERTON (1) 2 (Lyons, Eastoe) 16,538
ASTON VILLA (0) 0
Everton: Southall, Stevens, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Lyons,
Kendall, Irvine, Ross, Sharp, Eastoe, Lodge.
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Blake,
Bullivant, Bremner, Donovan, Gaddis, Cowans, Morley.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 2 (Francis 2)
SUNDERLAND (1) 3 (Cummins, Rowell, Ven-
ison) 29,462
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Bond,
Caton, Tueart (Hareide), Reeves, Francis, Hartford,
Hutchison.

Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan (Venison), Pickering,
Hindmarch, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, McCoist, Ritchie,
Rowell, Cummins.

Second Division

BOLTON (1) 2 (Henry, Chandler) 5,085
CHARLTON (0) 0
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bailey, Henry, Jones,
McElhinney, Chandler, Foster, Gowling, Cantello,
Thompson.
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Smith (Ambrose),
McAllister, Phillips, Elliott, Walsh, Hales, Berry,
Robinson.



WBA's Cyrille Regis takes on Palace skipper Jim Cannon during the League Cup clash.

EVERTON (0) 2 (McMahon 2)
IPSWICH (2) 3 (Gates, Brazil, Wark) 15,759
Everton: Arnold, Stevens, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons,
Kendall, McMahon, Ross, Sharp, Biley (Ferguson),
O'Keefe.
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Thijssen (O'Cal-
laghan), Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mills, Brazil,
Gates.

FA Cup

(Second Round)

ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Brodie, McDonald) 3,123
OXFORD (2) 2 (Cassells 2)

BARNET (1) 2 (Foody, Barnes)
WYCOMBE (0) 0 2,015

BRISTOL CITY (1) 3 (Tainton, Harford 2)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 2,901

ENFIELD (0) 4 (Turner, Ironton, Oliver, Waite)
WIMBLEDON (1) 1 (Brown pen) 3,000

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (White (D) pen)
BARKING (0) 1 (Hillman) 4,363

CHELSEA (0) 1 (Lee)
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Miller) 11,768
Chelsea: Francis, Wilkins, Hutchings, Hales, Droy,
Pates, Mayes, Bumstead, Lee, Walker, Fillery.
Blackburn: Gennoa, Branagan, Hamilton, Arnott,
Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner,
Brotherston.

OLDHAM (1) 3 (Heaton 2, Steel)
ORIENT (2) 2 (Giles 2) 5,006
Oldham: McDonnell, Edwards, Ryan, Keegan, Cle-
ments, Hoolickin, Wyde, Heaton, Steel, McDonough,
Atkinson.

Orient: Day, Hughton, Cunningham, Taylor, Gray,
Fisher, Godfrey, Silkman, Giles, Margerrison, McNeil.

Third Division

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Lee) 3,759

Fourth Division

TORQUAY (0) 0
PORT VALE (1) 1 (Chamberlain (M)) 1,880

Scottish Premier

HIBS (2) 3 (McLeod 2, Rae) 4,200
PARTICK (0) 0
Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Schaedler, McLaren, Pater-
son, Brazil, Callaghan, Rae, McLeod, Murray, Duncan.
Partick: Rough, Doyle, Lapsley, Dunlop, Whittaker,
Watson, Park, Jardine, Johnston, Clark, Higgins.

RANGERS (1) 2 (Bett pen, McAdam) 11,000
DUNDEE (0) 1 (McGeachie)
Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Miller, Stevens, Jackson,
Bett, Cooper, Russell, Johnstone, Redford (McAdam),
MacDonald.
Dundee: Blair, Barr, McLelland, Fraser, Glennie,
McDonald, Ferguson, McGeachie, Sinclair, Meckie,
Cameron.

Scottish Second

ARBROATH (2) 4 (Gavine, Robb, Shaw, Burke) 260
ALBION (0) 0

MONTROSE (0) 1 (McManus) 200
MEADOWBANK (0) 0

Wednesday, Dec 23

Scottish Cup

(First Round)

STRANRAER (0) 1 (Harvey) 551
EAST FIFE (1) 1 (Burt)

Saturday, Dec 26

First Division

COVENTRY (0) 0
WBA (1) 2 (Owen, Regis) 15,053
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Daly, Dyson, Gilles-
pie, Hunt, Jacobs, Thompson, Hateley (Whitton),
Hendrie.
WBA: Grew, Batson, Whitehead, King, Wile, Robert-
son, Mackenzie, Monaghan, Regis, Owen (Lewis),
Bennett.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Whelan)
MANCHESTER CITY (1) 3 (Hartford, Bond pen, Reeves)
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson,
Whelan, Hansen, Daiglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston (Ken-
nedy (A)), Souless.
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald (Gow), Reid,
Caton, Bond, Kinsey, Reeves, Francis, Hartford, Hutch-
ison.

Second Division

BLACKBURN (3) 3 (Garner, Stonehouse, Bell)
OLDHAM (0) 0 At Oldham 15,400
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Arnott,
Keeley, Fazackerly, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner,
Brotherston.
Oldham: McDonald, Edwards (Palmer), Ryan, Keegan,
Clements, Hoolikan, Wyde, Heaton, Steel, McDonagh,
Atkinson.

QPR (0) 0
CHELSEA (0) 2 (Walker, Mayes) 22,022
QPR: Burridge, Fenwick, Gillard, Micklewhite, Howe,
Roeder, Waddock, Flanagan, Sealy (Allen), Stewart,
O'Connor.
Chelsea: Francis, Wilkins, Hutchings, Hales, Droy,
Pates, Mayes, Walker, Lee, Bumstead, Fillery.

Third Division

NEWPORT (0) 0
CHESTER (1) 1 (Ludlam) 4,908

PLYMOUTH (2) 2 (Hodges, Cook) 8,185
SWINDON (0) 1 (Rowlands)

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 11,395

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Goddard)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (McDonough) 8,829

Monday, December 28

First Division

BRIGHTON (0) 0
ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Morley) 24,187
Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Nelson, Grealish, Foster,
Gatting, Case, Ritchie, Smith, McNab, Thomas (Ste-
vens).
Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Williams, Mor-
timer, Bremner, Shaw, Geddis, Cowans, Morley.

EVERTON (3) 3 (Higgins 2, Sharp) 23,895
COVENTRY (2) 2 (Thomas, Bodak)
Everton: Southell, Stevens, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Lyons,
Kendall, McMahon, Ross, Sharp, Eastoe, Irvine.
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson,
Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, English (Kaiser),
Hunt.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 2 (Hartford, Francis)
WOLVES (0) 1 (Daniel) 40,298
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, Wilson, Reid, Bond,
Caton, Kinsey, Reeves, Francis, Hartford, Hutchison.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher,
Berry, Birch, Eves, Gray, Richards, Brazier.



Ante Rajkovic (Swansea).

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 (Armstrong, Keegan 2)
SWANSEA (1) 1 (Rajkovic) 22,703
Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, Holmes, Williams,
Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Arm-
strong, Ball.
Swansea: Davies, Stanley, Hadzibabic, Rajkovic, Irwin,
Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Thompson,
Latchford.

Second Division

BOLTON (1) 2 (Thompson, Henry)
BLACKBURN (2) 2 (Arnott, Stonehouse pen) 16,577
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones,
McElhinney, Chandler, Carter, Gowing, Cantello (Lang-
ley), Thompson.
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Arnott,
Keeley, Fazackerly, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner,
Brotherston.

CARDIFF (0) 0
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Hales) 7,877
Cardiff: Healey, Grapes, Dwyer, Maddy (Sugrue),
Pontin, Bennett (G), Micalef, Bennett (D), Stevens,
Hughes, Lewis.
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phil-
lips, Lansdowne, Walsh, Hales, Berry, Robinson.

NORWICH (1) 1 (Deehan)
LUTON (3) 3 (Antic, White, Stein) 19,348
Norwich: Woods, Symonds, Downs, McGuire, Wal-
ford, Watson, Barham, Muzinic, Deehan, Bertschin,
Bennett.
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton,
Goodyear, Donaghy, Antic, Fuccillo, Stein, White,
Moss.

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Wyde pen)
LEICESTER (1) 1 (Lynex) 9,174
Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolikan, Ryan, McDonough, Cle-
ments, Fletcher, Wyde, Heaton, Steel, Palmer,
Atkinson.
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Leet, Kelly, May,
O'Neill, Lynex, Lineker, Young, Wilson, Hebbard.

Third Division

EXETER (0) 1 (Kellow)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Harrison pen) 9,144

GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Kemp)
NEWPORT (0) 1 (Moore) 6,055

MILLWALL (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Roberts) 7,474

Fourth Division

TORQUAY (0) 1 (Lawrence)
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Heffernan, Impey) 2,831

Liverpool v Wolves



ONE of the big questions on Saturday is whether Wolves can break the Anfield hoodoo which has been haunting them for so many years.

How many fans can recall the day in 1946 when Wolves centre-forward Dennis Westcott scored four goals in a 5-1 win at Anfield? If you can remember it then cherish the memory for Liverpool have since developed into a bogey team for Wolves at Anfield. So much so that Wolves have now played 19 games on this ground without a win! That latest victory was in December, 1950 when Johnny Walker (2), Roy Swinbourne, and Dennis Wilshaw helped them to a 4-1 victory. Wolves have not even scored in their last seven League games at Anfield.

Man. United. v Coventry

COVENTRY CITY kicked off this season with a fine 2-1 win over their manager Dave Sexton's old club at Highfield Road, but it will be something of a miracle if they can repeat that perform-

ance against Manchester United on Saturday.

The last time Coventry won at Old Trafford was 3-2 in December, 1973, but they have drawn three of their six more recent visits. Last season's result was a goalless draw.

Birmingham v Everton

ALTHOUGH we didn't realise it at the time, September 23rd, 1972 was a red letter day in Birmingham's history, for it was then that they beat Everton 2-1 with goals by Bob Latchford and Trevor Francis. That now stands out as Birmingham's only victory in 29 League games at home and away with Everton. Everton continued their winning ways by beating Birmingham 3-1 at Goodison in the opening games of this season (right).

Birmingham's win over Everton pre-



vious to 1972 was way back in February, 1959 when they won 2-1 at St. Andrews.

Notts Co. v A. Villa

THIS will be the 60th League clash between these two clubs. So far Aston Villa have won 32, Notts County 14, and 13 have been drawn.

Notts County have fallen badly behind on account of their poor record at Villa Park — only three of their 14 wins were obtained on that ground.

However, perhaps their 1-0 victory there at the start of this season is a

good omen and a win on Saturday would enable them to complete their second League double over the Villa. The previous double success was way back in 1900-01 when they won 2-0 at home and 2-1 away.

County's biggest win over Villa was 7-1 at Trent Bridge in November, 1890 when the pitch had to be cleared of three days snow before the game could commence and County centre-forward, Oswald, got a hat-trick.

WBA v Man. City

AFTER four defeats in a row at The Hawthorns, Manchester City will be looking for an improvement on Saturday. Having already beaten Albion 2-1 in the opening game of the season at Maine Road (below) they will be hoping to complete their second League double

over Albion in six years. Incidentally, when City completed that previous double in 1976-77 Dennis Tueart scored in both games. He has already scored against Albion this season but is unfortunately ruled out of this one by injury.

Albion's danger-man, Cyrille Regis, has scored in each of his last five League games against John Bond's Manchester City.



On the ball CROSSWORD

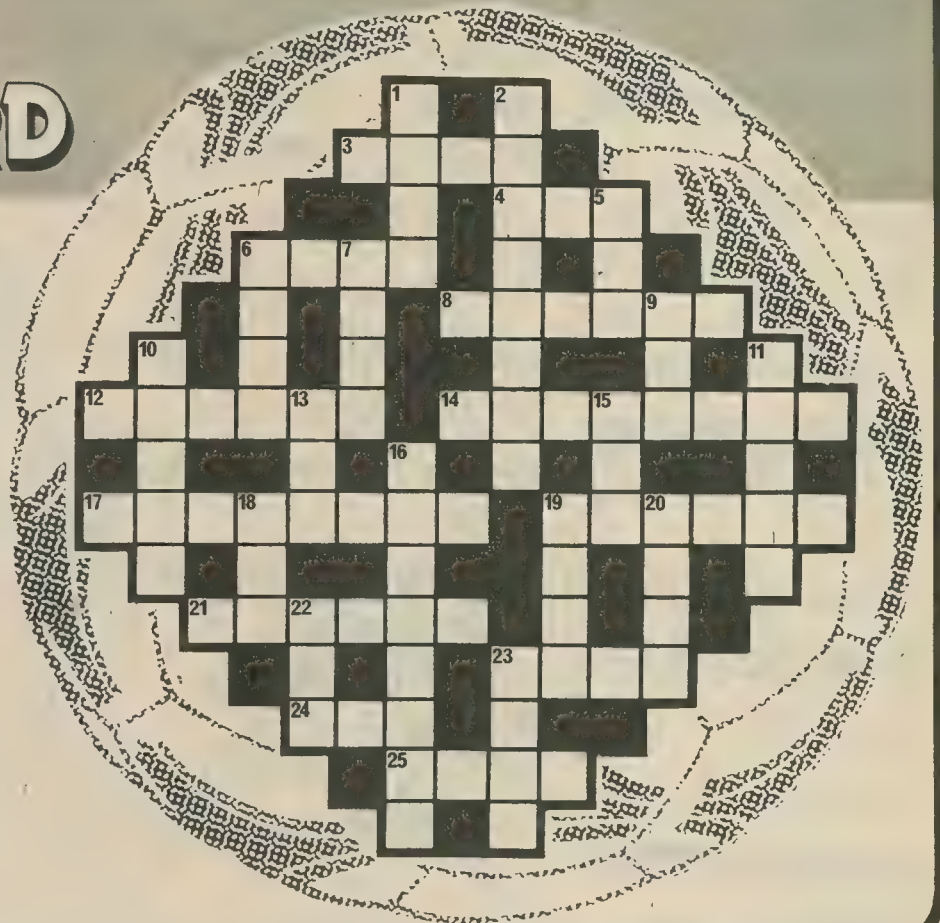
ACROSS:-

- (3) The —, nickname of Peterborough United. (4)
 (4) S---hend United play at Roots Hall. (3)
 (6) Colour of Wolves shirts. (4)
 (8) Injury in which a joint is wrenched causing pain and swelling. (6)
 (12) Kevin —, Southampton striker. (6)
 (14) Michael —, Brighton striker. (8)
 (17) Tony —, bought from Nottingham Forest by Cologne in 1979. (8)
 (19 & 1 Down) Ground of Leeds United. (6)
 (21) Nick —, Southampton midfielder player. (6)
 (23 & 2 Down) Liverpool defender. (4)
 (24) Kevin Re---s; Man. City striker (3)
 (25) — Bailey, Brighton manager. (4)

DOWN:-

- (1) See 19 Across. (4)
 (2) See 23 Across. (8)
 (5) A drink from the initials of Exeter, Arsenal and Torquay. (3)
 (6) — Lane; home of Bury. (4)
 (7) An animal from Millwall's nickname. (4)
 (9) — Gillard, Queens Park Rangers defender. (3)
 (10) Alan -----shire, West Ham and England player. (5)
 (11) Greg —, Norwich City defender. (5)
 (13) If Ipswich, Coventry & Stoke give "POT"; what do Cardiff, Brighton & Scunthorpe give? (3)
 (15) Mick M---s; Ipswich and England full-back. (3)
 (16) Surname of Southampton's manager. (8)
 (18) Take three letters from DUMBARTON to make a word for "two"! (3)
 (19) Every. (4)
 (20) Interval of quiet or inactivity. (4)
 (22) Sammy of Liverpool or Colin of Chelsea. (3)
 (23) Geoff —, West Ham striker. (4)

ANSWERS
ON PAGE 36

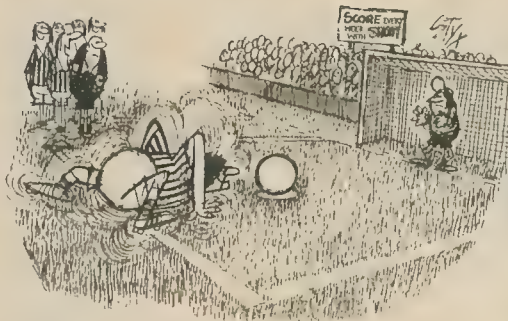


FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Football's a funny game — particularly the way we play it."

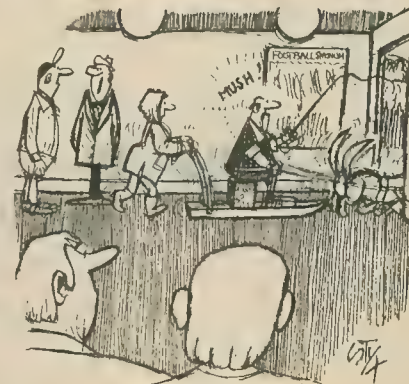
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"He plays a lot of golf, ref."



"Just as they took that corner, ref — someone pulled my cap down."



"A real stickler for following the book. Won't call it off until he has inspected the pitch."



This week Malcolm Waldron, Southampton and England U21 stopper, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx



EVANS BEATS THE BIRMINGHAM BLUES

TONY Evans, Birmingham City striker, has fought off his blues. Now that sparkling finishing touch is sharper than ever as he heads for the role that belonged to Frank Worthington — top marksman for The Blues.

Evans reached double figures with one of the best scoring average spurts in the First Division this season: ten goals from 11 games. Add in the seven he scored from 14 consecutive matches at the end of last season . . . and that reveals some deadly form.

"I've never felt better," says the high-paced striker who hometown Liverpool rejected and Blackpool once amazingly allowed to leave on a free transfer. "The groin injury that troubled me at Cardiff City took a while to clear: now I'm completely fit and moving better than ever."

Evans has always been a man who knew what he wanted. After an edgy relationship with Birmingham City at the start of this season when he was on week-by-week contracts, he has now signed until the end of the season. That has given him the stability and final edge of confidence he needed — and now First Division defences can watch out.

"There is only one answer I've got to any situation: stick the ball away in the back of opposing nets," says Evans. "When I've had problems, I've never been one to shout off my mouth or go complaining to the Press. I'll give my answers on the pitch."

"I think there is respect at St Andrews now for the job I can do. It's up to me to keep my scoring record rolling along at this rate."

Evans has been a fighter all his career in football — and he has needed to be. Blackpool swept him

out after six games without a goal and Cardiff City's then manager, Jimmy Andrews, darted in.

Evans arrived at Ninian Park briskly confident for a player tossed away and moving on to a club recently relegated to the Third Division. "When I get a chance, I'll score. And when I score one, I'll keep on scoring," he promised.

He was as good as his word. Once he broke into Cardiff's side, he scored 21 League goals at exactly the rate of one every other game — and helped City back to the Second Division.

Cardiff sold him to Birmingham and Evans found himself with the task of proving himself again.

But when his chance came, he took it: that end of season surge of 14 consecutive games gave him seven confidence-boosting goals.

Luxury

Just when Evans seemed able to afford himself the luxury of believing that he had made the grade in the First Division, manager Jim Smith signed Neil Whatmore to hunt with Worthington.

Evans, offered an extension of his contract, refused to commit himself to Birmingham. "I went on the week by week contracts in the hope that some other First Division club would come in for me . . . but none did."

"I'm not surprised on reflection. With money as tight as it is in football at the moment, any manager interested in what I can do would want to see me delivering the goods consistently. The only answer was to get back, battle it out and come out on top."

And that is exactly what he achieved. "I'm now happy to stay at St Andrews until the end of this season — which is as far as my contract takes me. At that point, we'll all see what happens next."

EDDIE WILL FOLLOW DAI-AGAIN

KEEPING the flag of Second Division football flying in that North Wales outpost of Wrexham is never easy — but manager Mel Sutton and assistant Mickey Evans are leading the fightback from a worrying start to the season.

"We've got good players," says Sutton pointing to such established stars as Joey Jones, Dixie McNeil, Frank Carrodus, Les Cartwright and Gareth Davis.

"We have some fine young players coming through such as Simon Hunt in midfield, goalkeeper Eddie Niedzwiecki and striker Steve Buxton; we've shown ourselves capable of beating the best such as Luton and Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup."

'Challenge'

"After working as coach under John Neal and then assistant to Arfon Griffiths, this is my first season of management — and I'm enjoying every challenge."

"If I've got one complaint it is that office work takes up more of my time than I like. Above all, it is working with players that gives me greatest satisfaction."

But that driving, demanding playing zest that Sutton displayed on the pitch in almost 600 first team games for Cardiff City and Wrexham is now firing the motivation of the oldest club in Wales — formed 109 years ago and holding on with spirit and skill after arriving in the Second Division for the first time in 1978.

Wrexham's strength this season is their midfield: the fluent ability of 18-year-old Hunt linked to the polished authority of Carrodus and the industry of Billy Ronson, a £100,000 signing from Cardiff.

"If you control the midfield, you run the game," says Carrodus, whose form this season is the finest since he arrived from Aston Villa more than two seasons ago. Now this positive, skilled player is reproducing his exciting form of Manchester City and Villa stardom.

"In fact, when we talk of consistency, we point to Frank as the outstanding example," says Mickey Evans, and Carrodus responds thankfully: "That terrible injury at Villa with two cartilages being removed took a long time to fight off."

"When I came to Wrexham, it

was still worrying me and my confidence was low. Now it's all in the past and I'm playing with far more freedom."

"It's true to say that the ball has not been running for us — look at the number of odd-goal defeats during the first half of the season — but I'm a believer in making your own luck."

"As we approached the midway mark in the League, the signs were showing through that we were in a false position."

"I believe that we are certainly good enough to at least finish half way up the table."

Manager Sutton points to Niedzwiecki as the next of Wrexham's long tradition of Welsh internationals.

"When Dai Davies finishes for Wales, Eddie has to be the one who takes over. We're delighted with the way he has taken his chance this season following Dai's switch to Swansea," praises Sutton.



WREXHAM



BACK ROW (left to right): Frank Cardozo, Les Townsend, Peter Tranter, Ian Arwright

MIDDLE ROW: Kim Roberts (chief scout), Mick Vinter, Steve Dowman, Ian Edwards, Eddie Niedzwiecki, Wayne Chepelt, Alan Hill, Dixie McNeil, George Showers (physio)

FRONT ROW: Steve Burton, Steve Fox, Mick Evans (secretary manager), Neil Sutton (manager), Andy Slater, Gerald Davis

SHOOT!

World Cup
stars to watch

ZICO

BRAZIL

FOR years Brazilians have been saying Zico is the greatest player in the world, but indifferent performances in the World Cup Finals, plus untimely injuries, have made their claim hard to believe.

1981 made it a lot easier. The 28-year-old Brazilian masterminded his team's victory over England at Wembley in May.

Then, in December, he was superb as Flamengo 'thrashed' Liverpool 3-0, displaying a brand of soccer rarely seen in Europe.

For being the most popular player in Brazil, Zico is well rewarded. Each month his bank account is credited with £12,000 — the other players' wages average £2,000.

That's the tip of the iceberg, because commercial interests ensure that Zico — real name Arthur Antunes Coimbra — is set up for life.

He's been the target of many foreign clubs, notably AC Milan, and they're sure to make enquiries again after the 1982 World Cup.

Zico will be 29 by then and it's possible he'll be past such a demanding challenge.

Flamengo are THE club in Brazil. When they played Vasco de Gama in the three-match Rio League Championship play-off 161,989 people were at the Maracana to see the red and blacks clinch another title.

And when British players complain about too much football, they won't get any sympathy from Zico.

During the three months up to the end of 1981 Flamengo were playing, on average, every 48 hours, scoring every 20 minutes.

Flamengo can rightly call themselves Club Champions of the World. In Brazil they say that if Flamengo, who supply four players to the national squad, played the national team three times, Brazil boss Tele Santata would be out of a job!



SHOOT!

SHOOT: Tell us about yourself.
SURJAK: I was born in Split, 29 years ago, that was also the place where I grew up and learnt the game. I've always been in love with football and that was the reason I joined my home town club, Hajduk Split, in the first place. I was a small, skinny kid then. I was a one-club man until my emigration to France, having completed ten years with Hajduk. I now play for Paris St. Germain in the French First Division. I made my debut for Yugoslavia — having also appeared for the Youth side — against Spain in Zagreb in 1973. I have 50 caps to date. I was made captain four years ago, in 1978.
SHOOT: The last time you played in the World Cup Finals was in 1974, when Miljan Miljanic was coach. Now you are there again — what is it about Miljanic that makes him such an outstanding coach?
SURJAK: I am glad you recognise him as a top-class coach. That's what he really is. First of all he is football-educated in the true sense of the word. He has radical ideas, methods and systems regarding the game and mainly he knows what he wants from his players. A marvellous trainer; we're all happy with him as boss.
SHOOT: Is the current team better than the '74 one?
SURJAK: I'd say it is. We've always had good individuals who could turn a match in our favour, but now the team is much younger and more organised in terms of collective play.
SHOOT: Many people believe the standard of world football has gone down since then. Do you agree?
SURJAK: In a way it has. Perhaps it's down to better organisation. At least the defensive lines have improved immensely. Back-four men are much more skilful these days and know quite well how to

treat an attacker. Another reason may be the obvious decrease of potential goalscorers and wingers.
SHOOT: How has international football changed since you started playing?
SURJAK: It may not have changed too drastically, but it certainly has changed. Managers have altered their beliefs and targets and differentiated the various systems. Much more emphasis has been given to training, a very important factor. There are no off-days any more for us players . . .
SHOOT: Are there less outstanding individuals now?
SURJAK: The apparent answer is yes, but as we all know every ambitious boy has to reconcile himself with the orders and commands of his manager for the good of the side. So, he is compelled to sacrifice his skills and talents to the cause. He's rarely given a chance to enjoy himself



**SPAIN 82
WORLD CUP
CAPTAINS**

**No.3
IVO SURJAK
Yugoslavia**



Italy's Renato Zaccarelli gets to grips with Yugoslavia's Zlatko Vujovic in a World Cup qualifier.

'SERIOUSLY-



THE MANAGER Miljan Miljanic

A REAL football fanatic who keeps files on more than 20,000 players at his Belgrade home and who can talk football in five languages, Miljan Miljanic is heading for his second World Cup with the Yugoslavia team.

Born on May 4th 1930, Miljanic wasn't a sensation during his playing career with Red Star Belgrade, but soon reached the top when he hung up his boots and turned to management.

Under his guidance, Red Star picked up seven titles and, after he'd led the national team to the second phase of the 1974 World Cup, he was signed by Real Madrid.

During three years in Spain he notched up a League and Cup double, followed by another League title.

Returning to Yugoslavia in 1977, he travelled worldwide as a member of FIFA's technical staff before taking over the national team on March 14th, 1979.

He drew up long-term plans for bringing-on youngsters in time for the 1982 World Cup, and all has gone according to plan with Yugoslavia romping home in Group 5 ahead of Italy.

nor the fans.

SHOOT: Yugoslavia has produced many fine individual players, but you've never quite managed to have a truly outstanding international side. Why is this?

SURJAK: We've produced a good deal of fine attacking sides in the past. However since the start of 70's our brightest stars have been seeking their fortunes abroad. This can be put down as a major inhibiting factor to the progress of an exceptional international side.

SHOOT: What are the strengths of the Yugoslav player?

SURJAK: Above all, he is devoted to his job, whichever side he plays for. I haven't met anyone yet who's come up with a few Yugoslav flops everywhere in Europe. Even second-rate stars who play abroad are described as "pass" to say the least. Yugoslavs are traditional fighters, have a will-to-win and are endowed by nature with silky skills and technique. Good athletes with perfect physique.

SHOOT: Why haven't Yugoslav clubs had more success in Europe?

SURJAK: The problem is we do have three or four good sides, but not a great one as England with Liverpool and previously Holland with Ajax. After all, football is still amateur back home and this, to someone who knows soccer inside out, can only slow down the progress of the game in general. We could say it applies as well to



every walk of life. An average professional is better than the best amateur.
SHOOT: Do you find French football more satisfying than football back home? Why did you leave your country?
SURJAK: First things first. Football in France and elsewhere in Europe, as long as it is professional, has another air to itself. In Yugoslavia it's also competitive, but I'm thoroughly enjoying my spell in Paris. To answer the second part of the question now: honesty is the greatest virtue and I wouldn't like

to hide the truth . . . money. It can tempt anyone!
SHOOT: Is it difficult to be an exile and play for the national team?
SURJAK: As far as I'm concerned no it's not been a problem. I've always looked forward to playing for my country.
SHOOT: What does being captain of your country mean to you?
SURJAK: To put you in the picture I'll tell you this: there are thousands of active footballers in each country: 22 of them make the final selection and only 11 take the field. Being their captain means

that they've laid their hopes on you guiding them to victory and in reward being the first to taste success by laying your hands on some silverware. I can feel nothing but sheer pride, emotion and excitement.
SHOOT: Realistically, what would be success for Yugoslavia in Spain?
SURJAK: Just to qualify for the second phase. We'd be content to reach the last eight. As for the last four . . . that would be a shock?
SHOOT: Who are your favourites and why?
SURJAK: I believe that Brazil will finally do it. They proved their superiority in many ways by winning all their three matches on their European tour a few months ago. Spain could pose many threats as hosts mainly because of their home support and so will West Germany who, on their day, can beat the lot. I have many doubts about Argentina. They look fickle and their form is erratic.
SHOOT: How well — or badly — do you think the British teams will do?
SURJAK: I don't expect any of them to go places and it's all down to their silly approach over the national teams. Look what they have achieved at club level. They have held the European Cup for the past five seasons thanks to Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Everybody in Europe is scared at the prospect of having to face them. So it's really odd to think that few countries pay them any respect when it comes to national team level. If they decide to work seriously on their national sides it's quite possible that they'll rule the world.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Luxembourg 0, Yugoslavia 5
 Yugoslavia 2, Denmark 1
 Luxembourg 0, Italy 2
 Denmark 0, Greece 1
 Italy 2, Denmark 0
 Italy 2, Yugoslavia 0
 Denmark 4, Luxembourg 0
 Greece 0, Italy 2
 Greece 2, Luxembourg 0
 Luxembourg 0, Greece 2
 Yugoslavia 5, Greece 1
 Luxembourg 1, Denmark 2
 Denmark 3, Italy 1
 Denmark 1, Yugoslavia 2
 Greece 2, Denmark 3
 Yugoslavia 1, Italy 1
 Italy 1, Greece 1
 Yugoslavia 5, Luxembourg 0
 Greece 1, Yugoslavia 2
 Italy 1, Luxembourg 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Yugo.	8	6	1	1	22	7	13
Italy.....	8	5	2	1	11	2	12
Denmark	8	4	0	4	12	10	8
Greece ...	8	3	1	4	10	13	7
Luxem.	8	0	0	8	1	23	0

Yugoslavia's Karasi (below) is grounded as he heads past Scotland goalkeeper David Harvey in the 1974 Finals.

British could be best'



WORLD CUP RECORD

Year	Opponents	Result			
1930	Brazil	2-1	1962	U.S.S.R.	0-2
	Bolivia	4-0		Uruguay	3-1
	Uruguay	1-6		Colombia	5-0
1950	Switzerland	3-0		West Germany	1-0
	Mexico	4-1		Czechoslovakia	1-3
	Brazil	0-2		Chile	0-1
1954	France	1-0	1974	Brazil	0-0
	Brazil	1-1		Zaire	9-0
	West Germany	0-2		Scotland	1-1
1958	Scotland	1-1		West Germany	0-2
	France	3-2		Poland	1-2
	Paraguay	3-3		Sweden	1-2
	West Germany	0-1			

SHOOT: Which players could make the headlines in Spain?

SURJAK: Every four years there's a new star to shine, the so-called revelations of the World Cup. Bar all this I'd stick to my old faithfuls Rummenigge, Breitner, Keegan and Platini. Watch out for the Italian Conti, and the Russians Shengelia and Chivadze. I hope that Maradona will live up to his name and sweep the lot. He's a credit to the game, my own superstar.

SHOOT: Do you like the idea of 24 Finalists — or is it too many?

SURJAK: There's a wider chance for every country to show what they can do. It's fairer, much fairer, with more games for the hungry fans!

SHOOT: Finally, Ivo, do you have a personal wish?

SURJAK: Yes my wish is for the best to win and for more good football for the fans own sake.

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 Ramon
 Magariaga
 Honduras

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WALES (H & A)	13.55	14.35	16.65	17.55	18.25
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This week's Star Letter comes from P. Ashley of Beechwood, Middlesbrough who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

Robin Hood for Spain!

DESPITE the rumpus over the F.A.'s choice of World Cup mascot, I have no quarrel with Bulldog Bobby, even though his inverted, Dracula-type figure could be a mite off-putting!

The only criticism I would make is that opting for B.B. shows a singular lack of imagination.

Who or what could be better, for example, than that great English hero, Robin Hood?

After all, our primary objective in Spain will be to rob those richly talented South Americans, and other world soccer giants of the most priceless soccer prize the world of football has to offer — to give to our poor, success-starved English fans!

And who has a better right — as a mascot — to be under the Greenwood tree? ● Unless England play better than they have been, Bulldog Bobby could be a case for the R.S.P.C.A!

Government aid

HOOLIGANISM and boring football were blamed for the drop in attendances, but hooliganism is now on the decline, and football matches are more enjoyable to watch now under the three points for a win system, but still the attendances have not risen.

So what is the problem? Perhaps it is the stadiums which are to blame. Most of them are in a terrible, outdated state and when the paying customer comes along we offer him draughty terraces, dirty toilet facilities and dirty seats.

To bring back the missing fans we need new, all-seater stadiums, but where is the money to come from?

The answer is simple — the government, who receive about 90 per cent of the taxes from the pools with the other ten per cent given back to the Football League, which isn't exactly a fair share.

MARK BIBBY,
GT. HARWOOD.

● If that's the simple answer I'd hate to hear a difficult one!

Bond's great job

IN a letters column Nick Lawless of Manchester said "I cannot believe that Kevin Bond has added anything to the City defence."

Now that Bondy and Tommy Caton are together in the centre of defence, the defence has been far stronger.

The two are an ideal combination, with height and good tackling ability.

I agree with Nick that Steve Mackenzie was a great player, and still is. But City's midfield certainly hasn't been drastically weakened by his departure thanks to the signings of Martin O'Neill and especially Asa Hartford.

What I say is leave John Bond alone; he's doing a great job.

With the signing of Trevor Francis he has given City extra pace, bite and awareness up front. He has also

brought the best out of Kevin Reeves.
DAVE WEDDOWSON,
EDALE.

● City were facing relegation when John Bond took over last season. They went into 1982 top of the League. The City boss can't be doing much wrong.



Greatest sub

I CAN'T understand why David Fairclough has stayed with Liverpool so long when he could walk into any other First Division side.

I know he will have been on good wages and was given medals for helping Liverpool to all those trophies, but surely playing regularly, instead of in Liverpool reserves, would have been much nicer.

Fairclough will end his career as "the greatest sub ever".

B. McNEILL,
JARROW.

● Ever heard of loyalty?

Bounced back

WELL DONE Ron Greenwood! Ron has suffered much criticism over the past months and has dealt with it immensely well.

Many critics have written him off and time after time he has bounced back.

England need a character like Ron Greenwood if British football is to survive.

DARREN HARRIS,
WYTHALL.

● If he can bounce back as he did from the World Cup point of no return, anything should be possible!

Dead and buried

I'M sick of Scottish football. If football in England is in a state, then our football is dead and buried.

It is quickly becoming a farce. There are really only four teams with any hopes in Scotland: Rangers, Celtic, Aberdeen and Dundee United.

Why have a Premier Division when only the above teams have any chance of winning it? It would be better to put these four teams in their own division, because the Premier Division is so ridiculous.

The teams fighting for promotion in Division One have no future in the Premier. It's a complete waste of time.

I support my local club Hamilton, who have no chance of even being promoted, or wanting to be for that matter. That suits me fine, as being promoted would only result in humiliation.

KENNY SMITH,
HAMILTON.

● You add a new dimension to pessimism. Many sports would love to be in the 'terrible state' football is.

Ask THE Expert

Send your letters to Ask the Expert, Editor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state your name, address or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Goals conceded

Which side in Football League history has conceded the most goals in a single season?

PAUL DIXON,
ROTHERHAM

● Darwen — now playing in the Cheshire County League — took that unenviable record back in the 1898-99 season, Paul.

Then they conceded 141 goals in only 34 games in Division Two — after which they failed to gain re-election.

Darwen's full record ran — Played 34; Won 2; Drew 5; Lost 27; Goals for 22; Goals against 141; Points 9.

They also set up another record that unhappy season — that of being the only Football League team to be thumped three times by a ten-goal margin... losing 10-0 away to Manchester City, Walsall and Loughborough Town.

Hat-tricks

Has anyone ever scored a hat-trick in two consecutive English First Division games?

ROY GALLAGHER,
ORPINGTON

● Yes, quite a few over the years, Roy — and I know of at least one who's done it in three.

On successive Saturdays in November, 1946, Liverpool's Jack Balmer scored three against Portsmouth (home); four against Derby (away); and another three against Arsenal (home).

Despite that remarkable goal-denial spell, though, Balmer still only finished top that season with 24 in 39 League games.

Record crowd

What was the highest attendance at any football match anywhere?

ANDREW CONEY,
WORKSOP

● They don't come any bigger than the 205,000 — 199,854 paying spectators — who watched Uruguay beat host-nation Brazil 2-1 in the deciding World Cup tie at the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, on 16th July, 1950.

SHORT PASSES

● The England team which beat West Germany 4-2 in the 1966 World Cup Final was: Banks, Cohen, Wilson, Stiles, Jack Charlton, Moore, Ball, Hurst, Bobby Charlton, Hunt and Peters. Hurst (three) and Peters scored for England; Haller and Weber for West Germany.

(NORDIN IDRIS, Brunel)

● Goalkeeper Sepp Maier made his full international debut in West Germany's 4-0 win over Ireland in Dublin on 4th May, 1966.

(RICHARD SOUTHALL,
Wolverhampton)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.



Kevin Bond and Tommy Caton (right) shut out Manchester United's Frank Stapleton.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

FOR WATFORD DIAMOND

JOHN BARNES

THERE are few things better in football than an unknown player bursting on to the scene and exciting fans up and down the country. At Watford they have a 17-year-old left winger who is scoring goals and turning opposing defenders inside out.

He is John Barnes — a player who has a past that is as bright as his future.

And his recent starring role in Watford's stunning F.A. Cup defeat of Manchester United confirmed Barnes' potential.

John came to England in 1976 when his father, a colonel in the Jamaican army, was appointed Military Attache at the Jamaican Embassy in London.

His father was a fine footballer and captained his country in the early 60's — he played centre-half.

He left school with four 'O' levels in the summer of 1980 and was recommended to Watford by a fan who saw him playing for Sudbury

Court in the Middlesex League.

The Hertfordshire club invited him for a trial last season and were quick to offer him professional terms.

He also had a trial with Q.P.R. but Watford were first in to sign him.

He made his League debut when he came on as a substitute against Oldham at the beginning of September and showed enough touches to be given a run in the side.

His manager Graham Taylor rates him highly. He says: "John is a bit special. Whenever he gets the ball you feel he's going to do something different: he has this tremendous ability to beat players and send in super crosses.

"At the moment I'm not letting him talk to the media as I want him to concentrate solely on his football.



"Luther Blissett's game suffered as a result of all the publicity he got when he first started out — I don't want the same thing to happen to John."

Barnes' skills were highlighted with a goal against Orient. A free-kick was awarded to Watford on the edge of the box. Up he strode and curled the ball into the top corner of the net.

"We score quite a few goals from free-kicks," says Taylor, "but that effort by John was the most confidently struck shot I have seen from a Watford player in my four years at Vicarage Road."

High praise indeed, but Taylor also has one main criticism of his young winger. "He's a perfectionist and often tries to do the difficult things when a simple pass would have done the job equally well."

John scored three goals in his first six League games and is one of the main reasons why many people are tipping Watford to reach Division One for the first time in their history.

"The supporters love him at Vicarage Road," says Taylor, "because he's an entertainer."

John Barnes is the type of player the game needs more than ever to bring the fans flocking back to football.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (3) Posh. (4) Out. (6) Gold. (8) Sprain. (12) Keegan. (14) Robinson. (17) Woodcock. (19) Elland. (21) Holmes. (23) Phil. (24) Eve. (25) Mike.

DOWN:— (1) Road. (2) Thompson. (5) Tea. (6) Gigg. (7) Lion. (9) Ian. (10) Devon. (11) Downs. (13) Arc. (15) Ill. (16) McMenemy. (18) Duo. (19) Each. (20) Lull. (22) Lee. (23) Pike.



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North-East battleground



Alan Shoulder

'Newcastle desperate'

ALAN Shoulder believes it's crucial that Newcastle recover their First Division status soon.

Shoulder, who completed his century of League appearances for the club this season, says: "For the kind of club Newcastle are and the supporters they have, it's very important that they get back into Division One."

"It's important for the area, too. This is probably the worst spell the North-East has ever had, with us in the Second Division and Middlesbrough and Sunderland struggling in the First."

"I always look for the Sunderland and Middlesbrough results on Saturday night and from a player's point of view, I'd like to see all three of us in the First Division."

"But there's not much love lost between the fans and I'm sure the

supporters would rather that those two were relegated. As well as us going up of course."

Newcastle are still hoping they might scrape into one of the promotion spots, though their season has been marred by inconsistency.

"We were the first side to beat Luton at home and on days like that, you feel we must go up. Then you lose at Orient and wonder if you'll ever make it."

"It would do a great deal for our support if we got promotion. We already do pretty well for gates for a Second Division side but I reckon we'd put on another 10,000 in Division One."

"Luton look like walking away with the title but the other two promotion places could be in doubt until the final weeks."

"I just hope we can put something together and take one of them. It would be good for us and the North-East. Everyone is desperate for a bit of success."



THREE star players with Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland assess the depressed state of soccer in the North-East and offer hope for the future in revealing their determination to revive soccer in the region and restore success to this previously richly talented football area.

Irving Nattrass

'Boro fighting'

"I feel particularly sorry for our manager Bobby Murdoch. It's his first experience as a manager and as a player, he was always used to winning things."

"For him and us, every game is a pressure game now. There's never a chance to relax and let things happen."

"It's a very depressing time in the North-East for football. This used to be a real hotbed of football and soccer was the sole topic of conversation."

"But a lot of that has slipped by over the past three or four years and it's important that the fans are brought back before they are gone forever."

MIDDLESBROUGH's idea of success this season would be to escape relegation to Division Two.

Says Irving Nattrass: "It would be a major triumph to avoid the drop. And I think you can say the same for Sunderland."

"One of the biggest problems for us was seeing four regular first teamers sold — Craig Johnston, David Armstrong, Bosco Jankovic and Mark Proctor."

'Struggle'

"I don't care which team you are, even Liverpool, if you have four players taken away, you're almost certain to struggle."

Gary Rowell

'Sunderland hopeful'

SUNDERLAND were relegated to Division Two in Gary Rowell's first season, 1976-77. So he knows the pain of going down.

He says: "There wasn't so much pressure on me then because we were near enough resigned to going down by the time I got into the side."

"But I would hate it to happen again. All along, I've believed that we would stay up but we've got to do more than just talking about it."

"People are always knocking the standard in the First Division but it's still hard to pick up points. When you look at the fixture list, all you can see is one battle after another."

"It's a terrible shame for the North-East public because the area is dying to take off."

"Football has always been the number one interest up here and it still is."

"The sad part about it is that those people haven't had much to shout about in the past few years and this is another disappointing season for them."

"We started off well enough by drawing with Ipswich and beating Aston Villa. But we struggled to score and things have gone from bad to worse."

"One of the most frustrating things is that we haven't looked that much worse than many other teams."

"We obviously haven't spent so much time at the bottom because we're a good team. But Liverpool are the only team who have really outclassed us in a game."

"The extra point for a win still gives us a hope of getting out of trouble this season. But it's going to be a long, hard struggle."



Gary Rowell takes on Russell Osman of Ipswich Town.

NO BITTERNESS AS SEXTON

OUR match against Coventry City on Saturday (January 16th) is possibly the most significant of the season at Old Trafford.

It will see the return to United of Dave Sexton, sacked by the club last season but now doing a good job with Coventry.

As a West Brom player I remember being very surprised by United's decision to part with Dave. I thought United's crippling injury list of 1980-81 went some way towards explaining their indifferent form.

And when they strung together a run of seven victories at the end of the campaign I, along with just about everybody else, thought Dave's job was safe.

Now, I'm sure he'll be keen to show United they were wrong to sack him by taking three points back to Highfield Road.

I like Dave. He was in charge of the Under-21's when I played for them and while he's a quiet person, he has a warm personality and a lot of charm.

I rate Dave as a good coach. He knows the game, gets his ideas across to players and doesn't over indulge with complicated tactics.

It isn't easy for him to run the Under-21's. There's a fair turnover of players, which disrupts the team pattern, and he

'He'll be given a warm reception'

doesn't get the chance to spend much time with players personally.

Even so, he helped me and I know he was popular with the players at United.

I think he'll be given a good



BRYAN ROBSON

Writes for you

reception by our crowd. As I said in the Christmas issue talking about United's (eventually postponed) game at West Brom, it depends on how you leave a club. Dave didn't leave United voluntarily and there was a lot of sympathy for him which will be reflected by our supporters.

There were accusations of United being dull under Dave Sexton. Players tend to look at situations like that in a different way.

I admired the way United gave nothing away, played it tight at the back and were well organised. Their goals-against column was miserly — just 36 in 42 League games, but such a record would please every manager, as a firm defence is the basis of any outstanding side.

Dave's a good organiser and if he can get Coventry playing how he wants them to they could become a force in Division One. They tend to promise more than they achieve, but that is because of inexperience as much as anything.

I particularly like centre-forward Garry Thompson. He's so big and strong that when he gets into the penalty area he's almost unstoppable. As long as Garry receives the right service from the flanks he'll always be a danger.

Young Gary Gillespie in the centre of defence also looks as if he could really make the grade, too. He's a calm player with a shrewd soccer brain.

I'd say the main difference between United of this season and last season is that the new players we have enable us to get the ball forward quicker, while Ray Wilkins and Steve Coppell don't have to do quite so many defensive duties.

It didn't take me long to realise what Manchester United fans expected from their team. A minimum of a 4-0 win and a thousand attacks per game!

As soon as we're in possession I can feel the supporters urging us forward, willing us to get into a

'I want to show how good Coventry are'

DAVE Sexton walks back into Old Trafford this Saturday for the first time since his sacking at the end of last season.

Sexton takes his Coventry side to play Manchester United, five months after a triumph over the Reds at Highfield Road. But Sexton, the man who was fired after winning seven games on the trot with his old team, goes back without a trace of bitterness or anger.

Sexton, one of football's honest guys, assesses Saturday's match — and his own special return — as: "the chance to show United and all the great fans just how good my new team is."

The Coventry manager says: "I'm looking forward to going back. I had four very happy years there and have no complaints. What I would dearly love is for my boys to play as well as they can."

"We have a young side and at times we have played really well. I hope this match will be one of those where we play as we can. I hope we can show what we can do at Old Trafford."

Sexton, of course, knows all about the aura and excitement of Old Trafford.

"It's all to do with the charisma of the club," he says.

"United and Liverpool are the best grounds in the country for atmosphere. When you go to Old Trafford, you are so aware of the tradition; the great players of the past and the history of the club."

"They are the club everyone wants to beat and every game is like a Cup-tie for Manchester United."

United have a reputation for

extending a big welcome to their old boys.

Former players like Andy Ritchie, now with Brighton, have discovered that in recent times and Sexton says: "I hope to get a nice reception."

"I'm very much looking forward to going back."

"If you have worked there, it's bound to be a special feeling."

However, Sexton does have one regret as he prepares for his big day.

"The only thing I am disappointed about is that we lost 3-2 in the 1979 F.A. Cup Final to Arsenal. It was especially disappointing after we had beaten Liverpool in the Semi-Final after a replay."

'Whisker'

"I am just disappointed I wasn't able to give a trophy to the Old Trafford fans. We were only a whisker away from winning the Cup, but we didn't quite make it."

"Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I met a lot of nice people up there and that's why I am looking forward to going back."

United's form since Ron Atkinson took charge at Old Trafford has probably vindicated the action of the United board, harsh as their move seemed on Sexton at the time.

But Atkinson has done it after spending almost £3m on new players.

Who is to say Dave Sexton would not have achieved similar promise had he enjoyed such a huge sum to invest in new men in such a short space of time?

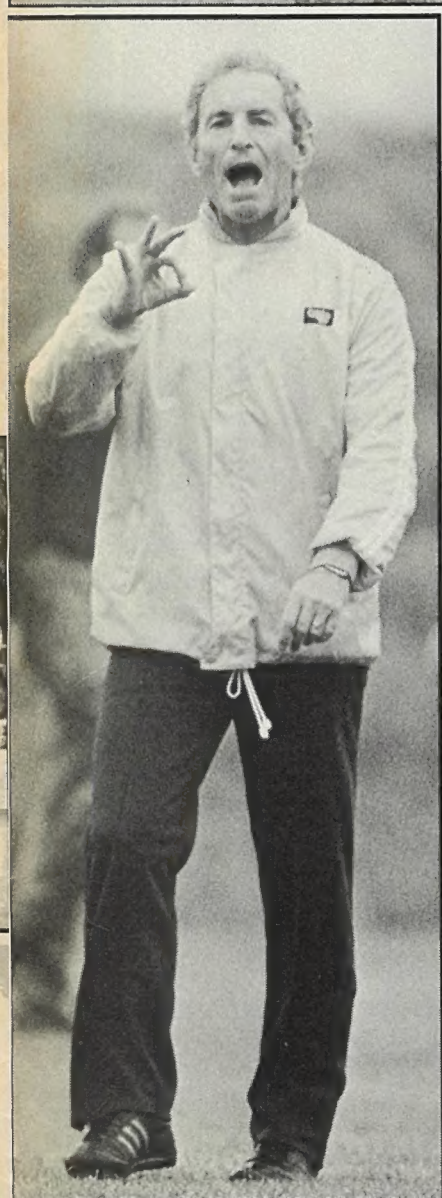


Action from the Coventry v United game at the start of the season. Now Dave Sexton (far right) takes his young team to Old Trafford.

RETURNS



"The supporters are always urging us to go forward in search of goals."



position where one of us can have a pop at goal.

It's often said that United fans will accept a lack of success as long as the team plays attacking football. I'm not so sure.

United are a club with a tradition of winning trophies and deep down I believe that's what *all* fans want . . . trophy or two . . . and that will make them happy regardless.

Going back to Coventry, I'll be interested to see if any other clubs follow their all-seated stadium idea in 1982.

Imagine

My initial worry was that there would be a lack of atmosphere inside, while I could NEVER imagine the Stretford End sitting down!

It does help the police, though, as anyone misbehaving is easier to spot in a row of seats. Coventry are to be congratulated on their bravery. If the figures at the end of the season for arrests are encouraging more clubs may be tempted to copy Coventry and Aberdeen in Scotland.

Changing the subject, I didn't enjoy the enforced mid-season break because of the bad weather. It wasn't really a break as we trained harder than usual because there were no games.

It'll be a long season for the World Cup players and come the end of June we may be grateful for a few weeks off, but with extra training it hasn't made any difference.

Join me again in a fortnight.

Bryan Robson

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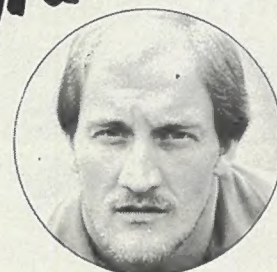
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Super Focus

Eamonn O'Keefe EVERTON

FULL NAME: Eamonn O'Keefe
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BIRTHDATE: October 13, 1953
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins
WEIGHT: 11st 3lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Plymouth Argyle, Hilal Club (Saudi Arabia), Mossley
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: Catherine and Paul
CAR: Ford Capri
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Star
FAVOURITE PLAYER: John Robertson (Nottm. Forest)
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Steve McMahon
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester United
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Liverpool's Phil Neal
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut for the Republic of Ireland
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the above match 3-1 to Wales
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Manchester United
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Wife's cooking and glass of lager
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: People moaning about the state of the game instead of getting on with it!
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: San Francisco
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: John Cleese, Anna Ford
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Golf with 'Diddy' Hartford

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Drinks with friends
BEST FRIENDS: Jim Halliwell, Eddie Cawthra
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father and Howard Wilkinson (Notts County coach)
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Republic of Ireland international
PERSONAL AMBITION: To play for the Republic again
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Something in football
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Princess of Wales

Eamonn O'Keefe



Everton's Steve McMahon.



Phil Neal of Liverpool.

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